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Labor leadership candidate MK Ehud Barak (right) confers with competitor MK Yossi Beilin at the party convention yesterday, where Barak's proposal for closed primaries was adopted. (Dana Strauss/Israel Sun)

Barak wins big at Labor convention

LABOR leadership candidate MK Ehud Barak emerged victorious yesterday from the party convention, which adopted his proposal for "closed primaries," which could pave his way to the party leadership.

Barak's proposal, which he had presented at the party leadership after his proposal for "open primaries" was rejected, declared after the meeting that he would support whoever is elected Labor leader, but in the race for the party leadership he supports MK Yossi Beilin. In a restrained, "statesmanlike" speech, Barak called on the delegates to adopt closed primaries - for party members only - to elect the party's new leader and candidate for prime minister.

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

"I asked myself, what is the right way? How was the late Yitzhak Rabin, who led us to victory for the first time in 20 years, elected? By closed primaries. "Talks with hundreds of party members made it clear to me that we must not weaken the party, especially in view of the direct elections for prime minister. Don't take away the party members' power to determine our candidate for chairman and prime minister by transferring this power to anyone in the street," Barak said. He won stormy applause from the delegates

when he urged them to abandon "the tendency to bash each other and tear candidates' legs and arms off. We'll only be able to persuade the public that we are attentive and open to all its sectors if we practice this at home. Only when we form a team and a captain who convey freedom of thought, pluralism and unity in action can we ask the public to give us its confidence in the elections in the year 2,000, and preferably earlier."

The drama in the convention was provided by Ramon, who spoke last. Ramon, whose address was punctuated by frequent catcalls and "boos," gave a charismatic speech, as was (Continued on Page 9)

Albright: Ross doing a 'brilliant job'

SECRETARY of State-designate Madeleine Albright pledged yesterday that the peace process would remain a top priority when she enters office.

In her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Albright said the Middle East would continue as an area of the "highest importance to the president and to me."

She stated that the Hebron talks are now at a "very delicate" stage, and called special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross's attempt to broker the deal a "brilliant job."

A Hebron agreement would be a "critical step in consolidating the gains" made in the peace process to date, and would "lay the basis for future progress" in final-status talks, Albright said.

Palestinian officials said yesterday that Hebron talks are now in a "real crisis," while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel has "patience" to wait for the negotia-

DAVID MAKOVSKY, HILLEL KUTTLER and JON IMMANUEL

tions to conclude. Netanyahu's remarks came a day after a five-hour meeting between Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Ross failed to bridge gaps. Arafat has charged that Netanyahu's plan to postpone a third pullback from the West Bank from September 1997 to spring 1999 demonstrates that he cannot be trusted when it comes to advancing the peace process.

Ross briefed Netanyahu on his talks with Arafat yesterday.

The Hebron talks, meanwhile, which seemed to be on the verge of completion last week before Noam Friedmann's shooting spree in the city, are continuing on a roller-coaster pattern and currently seem to be on a downward slope. There is apparently an effort by the other

side not to finish the negotiations, "Netanyahu told reporters yesterday. "When the other side decides, we will finish the negotiations. We cannot impose (this) but it is clear that we are insisting upon essential things."

"If the Palestinians want to complete the negotiations, we will complete them. If they don't want to, then we have patience."

Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rdainah said the talks were in a "real crisis" and another Arafat spokesman, Marwan Kanafani, called talks between Arafat and Ross "extremely tense."

In response to Netanyahu's complaints about the "porousness" of the original Hebron agreement reached last year, Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour asked on Israel Radio's Arab service, "How could a man who carries all this vendetta and hatred against the agreement implement it in a positive way?"

Asfour said on the radio that the inability to (Continued on Page 9)

Soldier killed, eight wounded in Lebanon

AN IDF soldier was killed and eight others were wounded yesterday in fierce fighting in south Lebanon, as at least one Katyusha rocket fell in Western Galilee.

There were no casualties or damage in the rocket attack, which was the second - following a similar incident last month - since the Operation Grapes of Wrath ceasefire last April.

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets north of the security zone shortly after the Katyusha exploded harmlessly in open land in the Western Galilee.

The IDF spokesman said the planes hit terrorist targets in the Jabal Rafiah area. The spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits, and all the planes returned safely.

Hizbullah denied being involved in the rocket attack, but did claim responsibility for the evening clash in the central sector of the zone, in which the IDF soldier was killed and five of his comrades were wounded.

The Amal movement later claimed responsibility for the Katyusha attack.

Earlier, at around 6 a.m., three soldiers from the elite Egoz unit were wounded when one of them stepped on and detonated a mine near Soujoud in the northeastern sector of the zone. It was not clear whether the anti-personnel mine had been planted recently or was an old one.

The soldier who stepped on the mine lost a foot in the incident and his two comrades were lightly hurt. They were all treated in the field and evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai, deputy hospital director, said the moderately wounded soldier had undergone emergency surgery after losing his foot and his condition was fair.

One of the lightly wounded soldiers was released after treatment. The other was kept in the hospital but was expected to be allowed released soon.

The mine incident sparked heavy exchanges in the region, with IDF and South Lebanese Army gunners blasting Hizbullah targets north of the zone. Reports from Lebanon said IAF helicopter gunships also participated.

Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, fired mortars at IDF troops in the eastern sector and at an SLA post near Jezzine. There were no casualties.

Later, in the early evening, troops on patrol in the Shomriya region came under fire from Hizbullah gunmen. During the close-range clash one of the soldiers was killed and five others were wounded.

The soldiers, who were on ambush duty between Almatne and

DAVID RUDGE

Deir Sirman in the central sector, spotted the Hizbullah squad of four gunmen and opened fire. It was not clear whether all four were killed or wounded in the exchange.

IDF gunners pounded Hizbullah targets north of the zone in exchanges that continued for several hours, with Hizbullah gunmen also shelling another IDF position in the Kawkabeh area, north of Marjayoun, in the eastern sector.

The five wounded in the first fight were all evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, suffering from bullet wounds mainly in the arms and legs.

Hospital director Dr. Moshe Revah said four were in satisfactory condition and would undergo surgery during the night. One was lightly hurt.

"They are all in stable condition and we expect them to make full recoveries without any complications," Revah said.

The Katyusha rocket attack occurred just before 6:45 p.m. when residents of a Western Galilee village reported explosions.

Police and IDF troops immedi-

ately launched searches in the area which revealed that at least one Katyusha rocket had fallen on open ground not far from the village. There were no injuries or damage.

Reports from Lebanon said one or two rockets had been launched from open space north of the security zone and some distance east of Kleileh village, itself about 7 kilometers south of Tyre.

Kleileh is known to be controlled by Hizbullah and there was considerable Katyusha rocket firing from around that area during Operation Grapes of Wrath.

It was from the outskirts of Kleileh that the previous rocket attack was launched on December 13, which also failed to cause any injuries or damage. That was the first attack since the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

According to reports from Lebanon, however, the position of the firing yesterday evening was much further from the village than on the previous occasion.

The IDF blamed Palestinian groups, probably Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command for the December attack, although reports from Lebanon indicated the possibility that it was carried out by local Hizbullah activists, despite the organization's denial at the time.

Meanwhile, the committee monitoring the Grapes of Wrath understandings yesterday completed its deliberations into complaints by Israel and Lebanon with a plea to all the sides in the conflict to respect and uphold the understandings that ended the cross-border fighting last April.

According to the IDF spokesman, the committee acknowledged that Hizbullah gunmen twice violated the understandings in recent weeks.

Yesterday's fighting followed heavy exchanges and clashes in the zone, particularly in the Soujoud region, for over a week.

The IDF lodged a complaint with the committee over yesterday's Katyusha attack.

Military sources noted that the escalation in Hizbullah's activities had followed almost immediately Syria's accusations that Israel was responsible for the bus bombing in Damascus last Tuesday in which 13 people were killed and over 40 were wounded. Israel categorically denied the allegations.

The fighting ended last night after the IAF strike and was replaced by a tense quiet with IDF and SLA troops remaining on full alert inside the zone and along the northern border.

No instructions were given to residents to go into bomb shelters, although some said they would be sleeping in security rooms as a precaution.

Levine warns Hizbullah

DAVID RUDGE

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine yesterday issued a stern warning to Hizbullah that it is "walking a tightrope" and risks a heavy IDF response to its recent escalation in hostilities.

Levine told reporters at Northern Command headquarters the organization was hiding behind the Grapes of Wrath understandings and firing from the outskirts and sometimes inside villages in the belief that the IDF would not return fire for fear of endangering civilians.

He stressed, however, that the understandings gave the IDF the right to return fire in self-defense. Levine said there was a limit to the IDF's restraint and it might prove necessary to hit back harder to cease the firing and prevent casualties. In such circumstances, Hizbullah would be solely responsible for bringing the fighting into the villages.

IDF using soldiers as guinea pigs in nerve gas antidote experiments

THE IDF admitted yesterday that it has been testing a nerve gas antidote and other drugs on soldiers for decades, but dismissed charges that soldiers are forced to participate in the experiments.

Army Surgeon-General Brig-Gen. Yehoshua Shemer said recruits today are being used in medical experiments, but only on a voluntary basis and soldiers must sign a waiver to participate.

"There are no secrets here," Shemer said, adding that the drug being tested was Piriogloblin. "It protects against the very grave effects of nerve gas. If you take it before being exposed it neutralizes most of the serious effects of nerve gas."

Shemer's statements came following a report on Israel Radio that soldiers were forced to take drugs in the 1970s and 1980s, some of which were reportedly banned. Recently, Givati soldiers have been involved in the latest experiments and their parents have urged them to quit, Israel Radio said.

The army declined to comment on the matter and referred all queries to the radio interview given by Shemer. Shemer said any

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

and all medical research in the IDF is first approved by the Helsinki Commission on Human

Rights. He also admitted that there were other experiments being conducted as well.

He said the nature of the drug (Continued on Page 4)

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Mordechai, Levy assure world Israel not warmongering

ISRAEL is not interested in a war with Syria, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told his American and British counterparts in recent telephone calls, defense officials said.

Mordechai telephoned both US Secretary of Defense William Perry and Britain's Defense Secretary Michael Portillo and told them that Israel does not intend to execute any attack on Syria and that the government of Israel expects the peace negotiations with Damascus to

resume, officials said yesterday.

Mordechai also updated Perry and Portillo on the Hebron negotiations with the Palestinians and "exchanged with them assessments" on the situation in the Middle East, officials said.

He also updated them on his recent visit to Egypt, including his unprecedented talks with his Egyptian counterpart Mohammed Hussein Tantawi.

Foreign Minister David Levy echoed this message yesterday, telling the

Knesset plenum that the government is taking diplomatic and political steps to renew talks with Syria, but said he cannot elaborate on what they are. Levy was answering a parliamentary question by MK Azmi Bishara (Hadash).

"It is the diplomatic aim of the government to attain peace agreements with all our neighbors - including Syria," Levy said.

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and LIAT COLLINS

"We hope that the negotiations will be resumed soon and are acting to this end. The government is taking diplomatic and political steps, which I cannot specify in public, to reach this aim of resuming the talks. The government is obliged by international agreements on which Israel is signed. There are no such agreements - yet - with Syria. Before the negotiations with Syria are opened in practice, no pub-

lic declarations should be made on any of the issues," Levy said.

Bashara also asked about the recent statements by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who spoke of some kind of agreement with the previous government over Israeli preparedness to leave the Golan Heights.

"Do you relate to what the Egyptian president said as an agreement with the Israeli government or do not see the commitment he recalled by the late

Yitzhak Rabin, to a withdrawal from the Golan, as an agreement between Israel and Syria?" Bashara asked.

"The new government announced it will honor written agreements. There is no written agreement [in this case]. From here, I would like to say that the most effective route to the treasured peace serves both sides - I believe in that - it is for each side to raise its opinion around the negotiating table. I hope this will be the case," Levy said.

Alon Shvut youth confined to his settlement

HERB KEINON

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan issued an administrative order yesterday restricting the movement of a 17-year-old Alon Shvut youth to his settlement for a month for security reasons.

Another administrative order was issued against a Kiryat Arba man, preventing him from entering the territories for a month.

The Alon Shvut youth, according to Kach sources, studies in a kollel in Hebron affiliated with Rabbi Yitzhak Ginsburg, who himself was under administrative detention last year. The youth is considered "close to Kach circles."

According to Kach sources, last month the GSS warned the youth to stay out of Hebron or face an administrative order banning him from the city - but he did not heed their warning.

Nafati Wertzberger, representing the youth, said that he is the first juvenile to be issued an administrative order "since the

days of the Irgun and Lehi when kids were placed under administrative detention for posting handbills."

In a related development, Wertzberger filed an appeal with the military court yesterday against the two-week extension of the administrative detention order against former Kach spokesman Noam Federman.

"Federman has turned into a hostage of the Oslo accords," Wertzberger wrote in his appeal.

He also said that it is "inconceivable" that the person providing the court with classified information against Federman is the senior GSS official - the head of the service's Jewish division - who reportedly lied to the Gidon Committee, which is investigating leaks from the GSS to Aryeh Deri.

Wertzberger is also appealing an administrative order restricting another right-wing activist, Itamar

Ben-Gvir, to his home in Mevasseret Zion. Wertzberger wrote that Ben-Gvir's parents live in Mevasseret Zion, but that he lives elsewhere. It is wrong, Wertzberger wrote, to force his parents "to keep him in the home."

Federman's wife, Elisheva, meanwhile, defended a decision by the Prison Service to allow her and her four children to spend Shabbat with her husband in the Eyal jail twice over the last two months. This was reportedly the first time that an administrative detainee or prisoner has been able to host family members in jail for two consecutive days.

Elisheva Federman said that the decision to allow the visit had the backing of the High Court of Justice, and that administrative detention is not meant as a form of punishment. Ha'aretz reported yesterday that there are 35 Arabs in administrative detention and that none of them have the right to host their families in jail.

Settlers council to consider removing Levinger, Waldman over comments

HERB KEINON

ousting rabbis Moshe Levinger and Eliezer Waldman from the leadership of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza because of recent remarks they made about the army and obeying orders will be discussed at a council meeting next week, a council source said yesterday.

According to the source, a number of council members are furious about comments Levinger reportedly made to Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak following the Noam Friedman shooting spree in Hebron last week, as well as a reissuing of a halachic call by Waldman to sol-

diers not to take part in the "abandoning of Eretz Yisrael."

Levinger reportedly told Shahak that he is "disgusted" by the IDF commanders. Levinger has denied this, although he admitted criticizing Shahak for not bringing to the attention of the political echelon the dangers Hebron's Jews will face as a result of the redeployment agreement.

Waldman, for his part, told Israel Radio last month that "it is forbidden to be a part of the abandonment of parts of Israel, and certainly Hebron. It is forbidden for anyone to be a part of this. It is

forbidden for our soldiers, who obey every order, to obey this order, which is against a Torah commandment." Waldman is dean of the Nir yeshiva in Kiryat Arba.

Both Levinger and Waldman are on the settlement council's secretariat, although Levinger has not attended meetings since 1992, when he ran for the Knesset. Many settlement leaders blamed him for weakening the right in that election, and helping bring Labor to power.

The council source, who did not want to be identified, said that removing Levinger from the council would largely be symbolic, because he has not been actively involved in so many years. He said that although there is support for the move among a number of council members who are tired of "a string of totally irresponsible comments" Levinger has made, his ouster is unlikely on the eve of a redeployment agreement. "Nobody wants to isolate the settlement now," he said.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat speaks with Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur in the lobby of a Jerusalem hotel after signing an agreement on a temporary international force in Hebron yesterday.

New building to begin today in Hebron's Avraham Avinu quarter

HERB KEINON

HEBRON'S Jews are scheduled today to begin pouring the foundations of a new residential building in the settlement's Avraham Avinu quarter, settlement spokesman David Wilder said yesterday.

The significance of the construction, Wilder said, "is it shows that we are planning on staying here, developing the community and bringing in more people, regardless of the plans of Arafat or the Palestinian Authority."

Wilder said that the settlement has all the permits needed to begin construction of the building, which will house 10 apartments and be named after Nahum Hoss and Yehuda Parush, residents of

Hebron and Kiryat Arba who were killed in a terrorist attack just outside Hebron two years ago. Wilder said the settlement has had permits to begin building "for some time."

However, a spokesman for Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, the minister who must approve all new building in the territories, said he does not know of any permit for construction of a new structure in Avraham Avinu.

Wilder said that money to build the structure is coming from donations from here and abroad. The apartments will be owned by the

settlement and rented out, as are almost all the properties in the settlement. "We will have no problem filling the apartments," Wilder said.

The plot of land where this building is to go up is one of five Jewish-owned plots in that part of Hebron due to remain under Israeli jurisdiction.

Peace Now, meanwhile, called on Mordechai to prevent the settlers from pouring the foundations for the building. "Every child knows that the timing is not coincidental, and that the intention is to complicate matters before signing the Hebron agreement," Peace Now spokesman Alon Amnon said. "This is a provocation."

Jews, Arabs vie for land in anticipation of new round of redeployment

HERB KEINON

WHILE Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are holding discussions in hotel rooms, Jews and Palestinians are vying for various parcels of land in the territories, attempting to stake a claim before the next stage of redeployment.

Yesterday a dispute emerged on a 2,000-dunam plot in the Jordan Valley, between the settlements of Bekaot and Roi. When a few residents of Bekaot went to till the fields, they were confronted by a group of Palestinians who said the land is theirs. The police intervened, and the Israelis agreed to hold off working the land until Sunday, giving the Palestinians a chance to prove their claim to the property.

Jordan Valley Settlement Committee spokeswoman Tamir Atyia said that a Tel Aviv lawyer bought the land 18 months ago

by the Palestinian Authority in its negotiations with Israel. This is the second land dispute in the Jordan Valley in a month, the other being on the so-called Yugoslav Experimental Farm near Moshav Masbia. Israel claims that the 400-dunam plot belongs to the moshav, while the Palestinians maintain that, according to the Oslo accords, the land belongs to them.

In a related development, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza launched a campaign this week to draw attention to what it says are scores of illegal buildings Palestinians are constructing throughout the territories now controlled by Israel, in an attempt to claim these areas and ensure they come under Palestinian jurisdiction following the next redeployment stage.

Atyia said that the Palestinians are carefully monitoring every time Jews go to work on any new field in the area. She claimed the Palestinians are trying to create "provocations," so that these areas of dispute can be used as leverage

by the Palestinian Authority in its negotiations with Israel.

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Lau: Soldiers shouldn't disobey orders

LIAT COLLINS

CHIEF Rabbi Yisrael Lau has repeated his rejection of a rabbinic ruling calling on soldiers to disobey orders rather than evacuate settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

A delegation from the Knesset Interior Committee met with the chief rabbi at Hechal Shlomo yesterday. The meeting focused largely on statements on refusing orders and *din rodef* and *din moser* (the religious laws on killing someone in self-defense and against delivering Jews into the hands of non-Jews).

Lau said the ruling on refusing orders comes from a group of yeshiva heads and the chief rabbis themselves last week noted that soldiers must obey their commanders. Lau said soldiers should not be faced with the burden of deciding whether an order is legal or not.

During the meeting, the chief rabbi said that until now no rabbi had been found who had made a ruling on *din rodef* or *din moser*.

The Negev Center for Regional Development
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

mourns the passing of
HARRY M. LEVY
of Lancaster, California
a wise and dear friend
whose generosity has contributed in many ways
to the educational and environmental development
of the Negev.
Everyone associated with the Negev Center
extends sincere condolences to the family.

Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi
sadly announces the passing of
FANNY NORTON ז"ל
The funeral took place on Wednesday,
January 8, 1997, at the kibbutz.
We extend our condolences to Jack Ben-Natan
and to all his family.
Kfar Hanassi

To Shai, Avi, Roni, and Rivi Mayer
Mrs. Tova Hoffman
and all members of the families

We mourn with you the death of the dear head of your family

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2. Organizations that are not banks, but which hold a permit from the Bank of Israel to engage in money changing, and which, on the day they submit a bid, are engaged in the provision of money changing services, and auxiliary financial services.

C. For the purposes of considering offers, bids will be divided into two groups, corresponding to the classification of bidders, in line with subparagraphs B-1, and B-2.

D. Bids for each of the two parts of the tender may be submitted jointly by a group of organizations, provided that the main partner in the group; or each of the members of the group holds at least 27% of the issued capital shares, considered either with reference to voting rights, or to the right to appoint directors.

E. A banking organization that wins the tender will be responsible for obtaining a permit to engage in the refunding of VAT to tourists, from the Customs and VAT authorities, and/or the Min. of Tourism, and/or all other bodies from which the law requires a permit to be obtained.

F. The franchise will be given for a period of three years less one day, namely from March 2, 1997 until February 29, 2000. The Airports Authority retains the option to extend the franchise at its sole, indisputable discretion, for two additional 12-month periods, or for one 24-month period.

G. The tender documents may be obtained at the Commercial and Property Division, at the head office of the Airports Authority, from January 12, 1997, during regular working hours. The tender documents must be requested in writing, and must be paid for in cash or with a bank check for NIS2,800, which includes VAT. This fee is non-refundable. In the written application for the tender documents, the name of the organization that wishes to bid, the name of the organization's contact person, and the telephone and fax numbers must be given.

H. The Airports Authority will hold a meeting regarding the tender, to which only parties that have submitted the tender documents will be invited.

I. Bids, with all documents and evidence, as detailed in the tender conditions, must be placed in the Authority's tenders box, in the Registration and Documentation Section (Archives) at the head office, by February 6, 1997, at 10 a.m.

No undertaking is given to accept the highest or any bid.

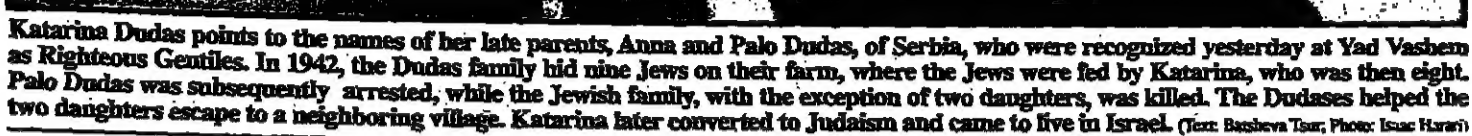
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**EVELYN GORDON**

Finally, the report uncovered three cases in which institutions' supervision is also less tight than it should be because of the lack of manpower.

Other projects Meir and his brothers Binyamin and Moshe were involved in included building the Tel Shalom neighborhood. Meir also owned the Meir Chemical Factory, was involved in founding and managing the tennis center in Ramat Hasharon. (Tim)

LIAT COLLINS

Kibbutz to evict dogs

SOME 120 dogs will find themselves without shelter this weekend unless the Let The Animals Live welfare group can persuade Kibbutz Gili Yam not to evict them. The group has been promised a site in Hod Hasharon to build a new facility, but it will take at least a year to do so, spokeswoman Eri Almazan said. However, Gili Yam, where the group currently operates its shelter, has ordered them off its land by Friday. Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen sent the group a letter saying the negotiations for the new site are in the advanced stages and stating her belief that the Kibbutz will allow the shelter to remain on its premises in the meantime.

Liat Collins

BATSHEVA TSUR

He called on Delamuraz to "unequivocally take back" his charge of blackmail. "We have no argument with the Swiss people. We are concerned with one thing: discovering the truth of the biggest

The Swiss Embassy in Israel yesterday released the text of the federal council's statement from Tuesday. It read, inter alia: "It is

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

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Milosevic concedes second-largest city to opposition

IN a major concession to pro-democracy demonstrators, the Serbian government yesterday acknowledged that the opposition won local elections in the second-largest city of Nis.

The decision was announced in a Justice Ministry statement read on state television. Announcements of opposition victories in Nis, Belgrade and 12 other municipalities sparked the mass protests against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that went into their 51st day yesterday.

A court in the small central town of Lapovo ruled in favor of the opposition coalition Tuesday, giving it back three seats and control of the town council it had won in the November 17 vote.

A similar appeal occurred over Nis, a former industrial powerhouse and bastion of support for Milosevic. The city, however, has fallen on hard times since Milosevic's bankrolled wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Serbia suffered economic sanctions as a result.

**DUSAN STOJANOVIC
BELGRADE**

International fact-finders last month confirmed opposition victories in Nis, Belgrade and the 12 other municipalities. But Milosevic had refused to concede defeat, causing the biggest protests against him since he came to power in 1987.

The real prize is still the capital, Belgrade. Milosevic has adamantly refused to concede opposition victory there.

Control of Nis would enable the opposition to dent the president's strong grip on media outside Belgrade. The opposition has said it wants to start television stations and other independent media there that could reach out through southern Serbia.

Both Milosevic and the opposition want to bolster their standing ahead of Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for next December.

In Belgrade yesterday, riot police blocked downtown traffic to prevent opposition leaders and their supporters from driving their cars and snarling streets in another protest.

Since riot police have prevented marches for two weeks, opposition leaders have come up with alternative ways to continue the protest using Orthodox Christmas processions, a funeral and traffic gridlocks.

Tens of thousands of heavily armed riot police have been deployed in Belgrade, charged with trying to keep the traffic moving during the marching protests. But yesterday they also stopped the traffic.

"It's unbelievable," said opposition leader Vuk Draskovic, as his car was blocked by a police cordon in downtown Belgrade.

"They should be regulating traffic and not preventing it," said Draskovic, as hundreds of other horn-blowing cars remained stranded.

The standoff caused a complete traffic jam in downtown Belgrade with drivers leaving their cars and booing and jeering at police. (AP)



A police dog searches for further explosives after a car exploded near a Madrid shopping center yesterday. A Spanish army officer was shot dead by a woman in an apparent attack minutes before the explosion. (Reuters)

IRA admits to bomb attack On N. Ireland police

BELFAST (Reuters) — The Irish Republican Army said yesterday it carried out a bomb ambush in which police officers narrowly escaped injury.

Responding to Tuesday night's attack in the city of Londonderry, the British government vowed to protect Northern Ireland from a resurgence in violence.

Sir John Wheeler, British minister for security affairs in the province, sought to allay concern about the latest spate of incidents, saying extremists would be found and put behind bars.

In a telephone call to a local journalist, using a code-word, the IRA said it carried out the Londonderry attack.

Police sources said officers had a lucky escape when a device

planted by a road in the province's second city exploded as their two armored cars passed.

Wheeler said security was under constant review.

"There is nothing that the government can do to ensure that these terrorist crimes don't occur again, because they have been occurring in one form or another over the past 18 months, but what the police and security forces can do is to give the public the maximum possible protection," he told BBC radio.

"And they can guarantee this — those who commit these crimes will find themselves being arrested, charged, going before the courts, being convicted and going to prison for a long time."

Wheeler urged pro-British Loyalist foes of the IRA to maintain their 26-month cease-fire, which he conceded was "very fragile."

Security sources suspect that the IRA probably used a homemade horizontally launched mortar bomb or a land mine in the Londonderry attack.

The ambush, which was condemned by the main Irish Catholic nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, came 36 hours after an IRA rocket attack injured a policeman in a security hut at the heavily protected law courts in Belfast.

That incident added to tension after a spate of recent attacks and bomb alerts, and it was followed by a series of bomb hoaxes that disrupted traffic in the provincial capital.

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Peru, Japan blame journalists in hostage stalemate

LIMA (Reuters) — Peru and Japan turned their wrath on journalists yesterday for jeopardizing efforts to end the deadlocked hostage crisis, now in its fourth week with Marxist rebels still holding 74 hostages.

At the center of the controversy were a reporter and a translator working for Japanese television station TV Asahi, who sneaked past police on Tuesday for a two-hour meeting with Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels.

Peruvian anti-terrorism police detained the pair and confiscated their notebooks and cameras as they came out of the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence. They would be held for at least five days at the anti-terrorism headquarters in downtown Lima while authorities decide whether to press charges against them, police sources said yesterday.

Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, speaking on a tour of southeast Asian nations, criticized the reporter, saying he could have

harmful efforts to solve the crisis.

"It is very regrettable," a Foreign Ministry official quoted Hashimoto as saying. "An act like that could create unforeseeable circumstances and disrupt the government's efforts for a peaceful resolution and the release of all hostages."

TV Asahi named the two as Peruvian interpreter Victor Borja and New York-based reporter Tsuyoshi Hitomi. The Japanese government's task force in Lima banned them from their daily briefings.

The pair's entry into the residence, as well as the entry on New Year's Eve by a larger group of journalists, was also condemned by Peruvian Prime Minister Alberto Pandolfi as "damaging to the seriousness and fluidity of talks."

TV Asahi said it did not instruct Hitomi to enter the residence, Kyodo news agency reported.

The action was an embarrassment for police,

who immediately tightened security around the residence.

"Once again, the incompetence of the Peruvian police has been shown to the whole world," wrote political commentator Manuel D'Omelias in the daily *Expresso*. "For the second time in a few days, Japanese journalists managed to mock the cordon supposedly surrounding the building."

Throughout the crisis, the local and foreign media have played a prominent and controversial role — allowing the MRTA to broadcast statements live; entering the residence for an impromptu press conference with rebel leader Nesor Cerpa Cartolini; and covering round the clock every slightest movement at the siege.

The MRTA rebels stormed the residence on December 17 and took about 500 hostages including ambassadors and senior Peruvian government officials. Most of them were later released.

Yeltsin shows signs of pneumonia, ordered to hospital

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who had multiple heart surgery two months ago, has developed early signs of pneumonia and doctors have ordered him to go back to hospital, the Kremlin said yesterday.

A Kremlin statement said Yeltsin, 65, had been ordered to go to the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow where he spent time recuperating from his quintuple bypass on November 5.

The president had already cancelled all appointments since Monday because of what the Kremlin said was a heavy cold. "Doctors have stated that the first signs of pneumonia developing have appeared," the statement said. "In connection with this, in order to make a better diagnosis and to conduct appropriate treatment, a decision has been taken to take him to the Central Clinical Hospital for several days."

It was not immediately clear if Yeltsin, who has suffered at least two heart attacks, had already been taken to hospital. An official at the hospital declined to give any information. Yeltsin had been resting

at a country residence outside Moscow because of his illness.

Doctors had been due to examine the president yesterday afternoon and release a medical bulletin. Renat Akchurin, the Russian surgeon who led the team that operated on Yeltsin's heart, had told *Itar-Tass* news agency earlier yesterday that the cold was not related to the bypass operation and posed no threat to his heart. To suggest otherwise was "pure speculation," he said.

The president returned to work in the Kremlin on December 23. He had been holding regularly meetings since then, including having talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last Saturday, at which the Kremlin leader looked pale and tired.

His last announced meetings were on Monday, when he discussed relations with NATO with top Russian leaders and security officials and held a separate meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin — his constitutional number two. Chernomyrdin had been due to start a brief leave yesterday but it was not clear if he had left Moscow.

Iraq says one dead, several injured in bombing

IRAQ yesterday blamed Iran for a massive mortar attack in central Baghdad and said that one person was killed and several wounded by the blast.

The statement by the Interior Ministry on the official Iraqi News Agency was the first from the government since the incident Tuesday night in a major downtown square near the headquarters of an Iranian opposition group.

The ministry said three mortar shells were fired from a truck parked 600 meters from the Iranian group's offices, causing damage to a nearby hospital and laboratory. It said one person was killed and several injured.

The Interior Ministry accused Iran of being behind the attack and said security officials have begun to arrest "the criminals." It did not elaborate.

There was no immediate response from Iran. Yesterday,

**WAEEL FALEH
BAGHDAD**

damage from the mortars could be seen at buildings near the opposition groups' headquarters — the "Central" Public Health Laboratory and a club for Iraqi writers and poets.

The laboratory was extensively damaged, and the blast left a hole five meters in diameter and three meters deep in front of the building. Two workers at the laboratory, one of them a night guard, were injured, laboratory officials said. Windows in nearby buildings shattered, cutting people with flying glass.

At Ibn al — Nafes Hospital, reporters spoke with three patients who had parts of their arms or legs amputated

because of injuries from the explosion. Karim Naief, 48, who was in the hospital for treatment of chest problems, said he was awakened by the blast and found himself pinned down by a big piece of glass.

"When I tried to move it, I found I couldn't move my arm," he said. He said doctors amputated it to prevent infection from spreading.

The powerful explosion — a rarity in the Iraqi capital — was heard throughout the center of the city, reminding Baghdad citizens of bombing raids by the US — led coalition during the 1991 Gulf war. It went off near the offices of the Mujahideen Khalq, which is opposed to the Shi'ite Muslim government of neighboring Iran. An official of the group said none of its supporters was injured, and there appeared to be no damage to the group's headquarters. (AP)

EXPERIMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

demanding that soldiers be tested in pressure situations and that recruits presented the best suitable group. He said medical checks were done two months after the experiments to determine if there were any side effects, but none were found.

"We are six years after the Gulf War. At that time, when we did not have solutions to the threat [of chemical attack] we were very severely criticized. It is important for the public to know that we continue to increase our capability to present a package of protection that not only protects, but also neutralizes" the threat, Shemer told Army Radio.

He said that soldiers had the right to refuse to participate and that 30 percent had chosen not to be part of the latest experiment.

But some participants said those who volunteered for the experiments were absolved from guard duties and were not bothered by the base sergeant major, which was a form of payment.

Following the initial report, dozens of people telephoned the radio station saying they too had been subjected to the experiments and that any trace of the research had disappeared since it was not noted in their medical file.

"They forced us to take these pills three times a day," said Alex Shamer, who was in the armored corps in the early 1970s. "The commanders stood and watched to make sure we swallowed them." Shamer said he suffered from diarrhea and nausea.

"We didn't sign any consent form. They just took us as guinea

pigs and forced us to take it," Shamer said.

Shemer said records today are meticulously kept, but he couldn't speak for what happened 25 years ago.

MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) said he had sought clarifications from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and was seeking to raise the issue in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He maintained that even though participation was voluntary, 18-year-old recruits were not always confident enough to make the right decision.

"A recruit in basic training doesn't have real freedom. He wants to be OK with his commander and he is also under strong peer pressure," Lubotsky said.

"There's a lot of competition to get into Givati. They are very gung-ho. They are so highly motivated that they always want to make the best possible impression," Lubotsky said.

Liat Collins adds: Lubotsky stressed yesterday that despite his criticism of the IDF, the situation in the 1990s is entirely different than in the past. He also reminded the public that the experiments are carried out with the authorization of the Helsinki Committee.

He also condemned the lack of medical records pertaining to the experiments in the soldiers' personal files. He called for new regulations to be set by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, which would be relevant specifically to military personnel and would operate alongside the Helsinki Committee recommendations.

Powerful blast rocks downtown Algiers

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — A powerful explosion rocked downtown Algiers yesterday, a day after a car bomb killed at least 13 people and wounded 100 others.

The 4:30 p.m. blast came from the popular Clos-Salembier quarter of the Algerian capital. Ambulances converged on the site, and witnesses said injuries were likely.

The same witnesses said a bomb was dismantled yesterday morning in the quarter.

Attacks on civilians are increasing in the North African nation, bloodied by an Islamic insurgency that has killed more than 60,000 people since 1992. Saturday is the fifth anniversary of the army coup that eventually triggered the rebellion.

Tuesday's car bomb struck a bustling shopping district in downtown Algiers, blowing out shop windows and wounding passengers in a passing bus.

The death toll from that blast may actually have been as high as 20, the Paris daily *Le Monde* reported yesterday, citing hospital sources.

US officials to conduct TWA fuel tank tests

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — US officials investigating last summer's explosion of TWA Flight 800 said yesterday they would start tests soon on "fuel cross-feeding" as part of the probe into the crash that killed all 230 people on board.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) officials said they wanted to see if drawing fuel from a wing tank through a partially full center tank to engines on the opposite side of the plane could cause

static electricity and an explosion.

Last month the board said the wreckage of the Trans World Airlines Inc. jet was consistent with a center fuel tank explosion that could have been caused by vapors inside the partially full tank rising to flash point temperatures.

But it has not yet determined the cause of the crash — whether it was mechanical failure or a bomb. The Paris-bound Boeing Co. 747 exploded shortly after takeoff from New York's Kennedy Airport

on July 17. Most of its wreckage has been recovered from the ocean bottom off Long Island.

Board officials said the cockpit tape recorder picked up a comment by the pilot just before the crash that he would begin cross-feeding, but it was not known if he actually did. The tests would replicate the movement of fuel from a wing fuel tank through piping to the center tank to assess the effect of mixing fuel and vapors and see how the combination might cause a tem-

perature rise, the officials said.

Last month the board recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration order plane-makers to take steps to assure that fuel-air mixtures do not reach flash point temperatures. Their recommendations included insulating fuel tanks from outside heat sources and installing gauges to monitor fuel tank temperatures.

The FAA said it was studying the recommendations and would take action as warranted.

O.J. judge bars testimony on alleged Nicole drug use

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — The judge in the O.J. Simpson wrongful death trial yesterday barred testimony from Brian "Kato" Kaelin about whether Nicole Brown Simpson ever abused drugs.

"It's irrelevant," Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki said. The ruling prevented the defense from exploring an area once touted as crucial to Simpson's case: allegations that Simpson's ex-wife had been living dangerously in the last few months of her life and could have been exposed to unsavory characters who may have killed her and Ronald Goldman in June 1994.

Simpson, an American football star turned actor, was acquitted in October 1995 of killing his ex-wife and her friend. The families of the victims are suing to hold Simpson responsible for the June 1994 killings.

Kaelin testified in the preliminary hearing, as a hostile witness for the prosecution during the criminal trial and for the plaintiffs in the wrongful death trial in November. The defense ordered him back to court yesterday.

Kaelin was asked a few more questions by defense lawyer Robert Baker — nearly all of them blocked by the judge as redundant inquiries

from Kaelin's first appearance in the trial, as a plaintiff's witness. Kaelin did testify that he remembered Simpson wearing a dark-colored outfit when Simpson left for the airport the night of the killings, contradicting other witnesses who said Simpson was wearing a denim outfit.

The defense also re-called criminalist Dennis Fung, who went over some of his activities the day after the killings. But again the judge restricted many of Baker's questions. The criminalist testified earlier in the case for the plaintiffs.

The ruling on the questions about drug use came at the request

of plaintiff lawyer Daniel Petrocelli, who said the defense had to show exactly who could have killed Ms. Simpson instead of raising vague notions that someone might have killed her because of alleged drug use.

The defense had made a significant issue of Ms. Simpson's life in her final months. Baker said in opening statements that Ms. Simpson was leading a dangerous life, showing erratic behavior and socializing with potentially dangerous people in a crowd that included drug users and prostitutes. Simpson is scheduled to take the stand tomorrow.

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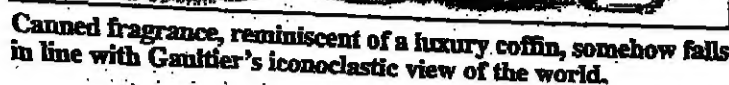
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A good start

After absorbing criticism over a seeming lack of policy resolve for the past half-year, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's administration has finally unveiled a policy initiative worthy of praise. The Treasury's long-awaited blueprint for accelerated deregulation and structural economic reforms, approved by the government yesterday, is well-planned, wide-ranging and ambitious in its aims. There is a very large distance between proposing reforms and actually implementing them, and the government still faces a difficult test in seeing its plans come to fruition. But if it succeeds, this government will be able to take credit for pointing the Israeli economy in the direction of greater prosperity and higher living standards.

In truth there is not much of an alternative. There can be no doubt that in an increasingly competitive international economic environment countries which do not work towards fashioning a more efficient public sector will in the end pay a high price.

Equally important are demonopolizing and privatizing initiatives. There is no need to point out what is obvious to everyone — prices of just about anything in Israel are higher than they are abroad. This is the result of a combination of a badly conceived taxation system and a proliferation of strong monopolies. Tax reforms have yet to be proposed, but yesterday's reform initiative includes some bold plans for eliminating monopolies in public transportation, privatizing water supply management, adding a third cellular telephone provider and increasing the number of petrol stations. Anyone who doubts the effects these reforms can have on the prices consumers pay for goods and services need only compare the average price of a cellular telephone prior to the elimination of Pelephone's monopoly with the price today.

To its credit the government also made an effort to present its economic reform plan in a positive manner. Netanyahu opened the discussion on the initiative by announcing that he will ask the Knesset Finance Committee to cancel a scheduled 6.9% rise in the salaries of MKs and ministers. Finance Minister Dan Meridor added that even if the pay hike was not cancelled, he would attempt to forgo the increase in his own salary. Such personal examples set by public figures are important at a time when the government is asking the public to contend with a reduced government budget and structural changes which may be painful for many in the short-run.

Meridor's decision to meet with Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz and inform him of the plans was another wise move. Peretz him-

self made a positive if cautious statement following the meeting in which he welcomed the government's efforts to engage in dialogue with the labor federation. Correcting inefficiencies in the economy does not necessarily have to cause confrontation, if all concerned parties make a sincere effort to balance individual needs with the public's best interests. Government, industry and labor successfully worked together for everyone's benefit in fashioning the economic reforms of 1985. That agreement was reached when the economy was on the verge of collapse. It would be a sad commentary on Israeli society if only the most serious of looming threats can force such beneficial cooperation.

Nevertheless, strong opposition to the government's proposals are expected. Spokesmen for the Egged bus cooperative, for example, were quick to issue a statement claiming that increasing competition in public transport would lead to higher prices and poorer service, in an attempt to frighten the public. A number of entrenched monopolies, such as Agrexco (export), Maman (airport baggage handling and inspection), the Employment Service, and the Standards Institute will surely fight the proposed reforms.

These negative reactions should not deter the government. Due consideration to individual hardships must be given where it is justified and dialogue should always be maintained, but the government must show resolve in progressing toward the goals it has set for increasing the public's welfare. If anything, yesterday's proposals did not go far enough; no mention has been made of some major monopolies, such as the banks, the Israel Electric Corporation and the Israel Lands Administration. In fairness this government still has nearly four years in which to deal with these issues.

Finally, some consideration must be given to the question of how the proposed privatization of government-owned corporations should be implemented. It is doubtful that one approach can work for all government companies, but in many cases, selling shares to the public is a good approach. This prevents the ownership of major industries from being concentrated in the hands of powerful individuals, enables the public to share in future profits and also gives a wide range of people a stake in the efficient functioning of the economy.

The government's initiative comes at a good time for such public sales — shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange have risen sharply in the past two months. Renewed public confidence in the bourse, coupled with economic reforms and public offerings of government companies, could be just what is needed to give the economy a strong boost.



LEF 97

The fox and the snake

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

In the tradition of *One Thousand and One Nights*, folk stories are also found among Arabians tribesmen. One such plays upon the ceaseless war waged between the cunning fox and the sly snake.

Nine days ago the fox of Damascus, Hafez Assad, took a massive blow when an explosion in the heart of Damascus killed 13 people and injured 50 more.

Assad used the terrorist assault to launch a counter-attack. He turned the whole thing into a field day, masking panic among the Syrian security services.

"The Mossad is responsible," thundered Syrian radio, TV and press. "Israel is behind the attack," declared Vice President Abdul Halim Haddad in the government mouthpiece *Tishrin*. The strident warning from Damascus was that Israel would "soon feel the hand of the avengers."

All the noisy indignation notwithstanding, there was no hiding the fact that the bomb blast was a direct challenge to Assad's total control over his country.

Both Binyamin Netanyahu and his special adviser on anti-terrorism, Meir Dagan, denied the charge of Israeli complicity in the attack.

Jerusalem has not forgotten that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad — organizations controlled by and operating from Damascus — were responsible for the wave of bus bombings in Israeli cities in the past two years. Nor has it forgotten that Assad is the one who controls and orders into action the Hizbullah gangs against Israeli military and civilian targets in Lebanon.

It was the fox of Damascus who was responsible for training Yihya Ayyash, "The Engineer," and supplying him with the explosives used in his terror campaign against human targets in Israel cities. And Islamic Jihad chief Fathi Shikaki toiled ceaselessly from his Damascus headquarters to sway Israelis wherever and whenever he could.

True, Ayyash had his brains blown out by a bomb fitted into a mobile phone, and Shikaki had justice meted out to him in the shape of bullets aimed by avengers astride motorbikes in Malta.

When Assad read in Western newspapers that "these were acts carried out by the Israeli intelligence services," it didn't take him long to see how he could make the most of the situation. Foxily, he ensured that other enemies too would get tarred with the "terrorist" brush, turned into barbarians who slay innocent citizens going about their daily round.

Assad scatters blame where he can, but he strongly suspects Saddam masterminded the blast in his capital.

This is rich coming from a man who once sent his tanks, planes and flare-wielding commandos into the Syrian town of Hama to crush opposition among fundamentalists there opposed to his dictatorial regime — but that's the kind of guy Assad is.

The Syrian finger was also pointed at Turkish terrorists as possibly guilty of the Damascus attacks. And, for good measure, the obedient Syrian vice president availed himself of the opportunity to aim a shot at Assad's Moslem Mideast enemies by castigating other Arab countries too for the atrocities.

HERE WE come to the heart of the matter. British as well as Israeli intelligence sources have no doubt whatsoever that Assad knows full well that neither Israel nor Turkey was responsible for the bomb blast in his capital.

The sly fox Assad is well aware that Iraq's dictator (whom he calls "the snake Saddam Hussein") is almost certainly the mastermind behind efforts to topple the Syrian regime.

The State Department also suspects that neither the Turks nor the Israelis are to blame; its official reaction to the blast was to declare that it needed proof before

issuing any condemnation. Saddam Hussein, anxious to persuade the UN that he is as pure as the driven snow in a bid to get the world community to lift sanctions against selling his oil, has been keeping a low profile during the past five years.

Now that this has been partially achieved, he is beginning to flex his muscles again — but slyly, like a snake, since he wants to avoid new charges of breaking agreements he signed after his defeat in the Gulf war.

According to Western intelligence sources there is growing evidence that Saddam wants revenge against his arch-enemy Assad, who joined the Americans and other UN nations like Britain and France in forcing him to withdraw from Kuwait and back off from his long-term plan to conquer Saudi Arabia.

This week Saddam Hussein signaled his growing self-confidence in what looked like a bid to resume his role as the most aggressive player among the Arab nations of the Middle East.

Decided out in full army uniform he made a public speech in his capital attacking "Arab countries." Pointing a finger at Assad, he posed this question: "Why does nobody criticize Syria for occupying Lebanon the way I was criticized for invading Kuwait?"

Saddam tried to prevent the Syrians seizing control of Lebanon in the '80s by backing the Christian Phalange movement there, which was at war with the Moslems. He failed; but he hasn't given up, and is busy trying to unseat Assad in Lebanon once again.

Nobody is more aware of Assad's muscle-flexing than the US, which believes he has to have been the mind behind the bombing of US army barracks in Dahran in Saudi Arabia last June.

The enmity between the two dictators is fierce. Assad allied himself with Iran during Tehran's war with Iraq.

What lies next in this seeming fight to the death between fox and snake?

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Offend, defend

YOSEF GOELL

ON Tuesday two separate panels of the High Court of Justice rejected two applications for injunctions involving limits on the freedom of speech.

A three-justice panel headed by Chief Justice Aharon Barak turned down an application to order the attorney-general to show cause why he had not pressed criminal charges against Haredi Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Haim Miller. Miller had declared publicly that the Israeli flag was "nothing more than a stick with a blue-and-white rag tied to it."

In a separate ruling, Justice Theodor Orr refused to issue a temporary injunction forbidding the broadcasting of the *Cameri Quintet's* satire skits on TV's Channel 1.

What the two cases have in common is the question of red lines in a free society.

The High Court rulings were both correct and consistent in finding that though Miller and the *Quintet* had deeply offended various sectors of the public, the court was not the place to decide to shut them up.

It is vital, however, that those rulings not be interpreted to mean that "anything goes," that there should be no red lines in public discourse.

Though Miller offended many Israeli, secular and observant, he shouldn't be hauled before a court as a political figure, ideally his punishment should be political.

But let's not imagine for a moment that the supposedly "proud and patriotic Zionist," Mayor Olmert, would dream of undermining his municipal coalition with Miller's haredim by sacking his deputy.

In a half-hearted apology, Miller feared his words could be used to excuse "retribution" against his haredi constituency.

There are limits on the freedom of speech — but the court isn't the place to set them.

But that is exactly what should happen.

It is an egregious stupidity that Zionist governments, Likud and Labor, have financed burgeoning anti-Zionist school systems educating scores of thousands of youngsters against the state, against IDF service and against democratic norms.

Offensive statements by Miller and his ilk should be piled up as "ammunition" for an eventual confrontation with the haredi establishment.

WITH *Cameri Quintet*, the red lines must be drawn within the Broadcasting Authority, a body that has been derelict in its duties.

Satire, by definition, is poking fun, and that is understandably offensive to those on the receiving end — governments and assorted power-wielders.

But satire's license should not be extended to include deriding worshipers at prayer, for example, or gutter humor and sexual innuendo clearly meant to offend "square" sensibilities.

The fact that the actors and writers of the *Quintet* feel constrained to wallow in the gutter and indulge in titillating high-school sexual humor is a sorry indication of the seeming limits to their talent.

There are public supervisory bodies for public radio and TV. Unpopular — and obvious — as it may sound, the members of those bodies need reminding that part of their job is to be a censor serving the public interest.

And it is part of an editor's job to be a censor, too.

How ironic that the same people who demanded that President Weizman be made to shut up following his recent injudicious comments about homosexuals be the ones to demand total freedom for "artists" to decide other groups like war widows and bereaved parents.

Public broadcasting today finds itself under concerted attack from the Prime Minister's Office, though to his credit, Finance Minister Dan Meridor this week came out against Netanyahu's demand that the public broadcasting channels be privatized.

In such an atmosphere the supporters of public broadcasting need every ally they can muster.

No society can survive without setting boundaries on the exercise of free speech.

It is not the place of the court to set those limits, but that of public bodies guided by a sense of the public's benefit, and its slowly changing perception of what constitutes the limits of good taste.

The writer's comments on current affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CEMETERY STRIKE

Sir, — I read that the Tel Aviv Hefra Kadisha is going on strike (Post, January 6). Maybe during this period, the cemeteries could be run by a skeleton staff.

GEOFFREY WIGODER

Jerusalem.

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

Sir, — Amotz Asa-El (January 3) clearly shows how the leadership of the National Religious Party metamorphosed from multicultural renaissance men such as Burg, Warhaftig and Raphael, to the present more parochial Hammer and Levy. But to maintain perspective, Asa-El should not have limited his analysis to the NRP. In the Labor movement, for example, can the narrowly political beliefs of the present generation — such as Barak, Ramon and Baram — be compared, in any way, to multicultural giants such as Katzenelson, Sprinzak, Ben-Gurion and Arlosoroff? The NRP has evolved, but retains the same general goals, only the means have changed as the result of changed leadership. Labor, on the other hand, is so radically altered that one can even question the continued use of the party name. But all this may be irrelevant and we may be in need of the type of leadership embodied in Golda Meir. Regardless of whether one agreed with her or not, Mrs. Meir, unfamiliar with broad world culture, had several characteristics that made her an authentic, accepted and effective leader. She had a strong sense of history; she felt herself to be a servant of the Jewish people; she had little doubt of the justice of the cause that she served; and she had good common sense. In leading a nation like ours, these may be more important than a Ph.D. from a prestigious European university.

NA'AMA KARASIK

BELGIAN FOREST

Sir, — Three thousand Jewish children were saved during the war by Belgian families — families similar to those of the four girls killed by a gang of pedophiles. To show we have not forgotten and to share the grief of the parents, we have decided to replant the Nevech Ilan forest, *Sit des Juifs de Belgique* which was destroyed by the fire that burned down the forests of the Jerusalem Corridor. We wish to demonstrate on that occasion that in Israel too, the law covering the crimes of child abuse is much too lenient and should be reformed.

Those readers wishing to participate in the event (which will take place on Tu B'Shvat) are invited to donate trees (only NIS 10 per tree in Israel). Checks must be made out to Keren Kayemet Le'Israel, but should be sent to the Israel-Belgium Friendship Association, 4 Deedee Street, Jerusalem 93106, which will forward the total of the donations to the KKL on January 20 at the latest. For inquiries, phone (02) 563-1393.

ELLEN MICHAELI,
Committee President,
Israel-Belgium Friendship Association

Jerusalem.

RAOUIL WALLENBERG

Sir, — Kofi Annan has just taken office as Secretary General of the United Nations. Mr. Annan is married to the Swedish-born Name Lagergren, a niece of Raouil Wallenberg.

A worldwide campaign is being launched to request the immediate assistance of the UN to actively search for Mr. Wallenberg. All donations will be greatly appreciated in order to intensify the search for Mr. Wallenberg. They should be sent to the Raouil Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee, P.O. Box 38, Ra'anana 43101.

MAX GRUNBERG

VICIOUS DIATRIBE

Sir, — In his vicious diatribe against the Israeli left and its alleged collaborators, like Consul Colene Avital and former ambassador Itamar Rabinovich ("Traitor, savior and hypocrite," January 6), Yisrael Harel fails to notice the basic difference between the anti-Israel activities of Yossi Ben-Aharon, Yigal Carmon and their accomplices and the resolution of the US Reform movement's executive committee.

The latter was addressed by American Jews to the government of Israel. Most of it, such as the appeal for withdrawal from Hebron and for redeployment, is in accordance with declared government policy. Even the idea of some kind of Palestinian state has been canvassed, without being categorically rejected by Prime Minister Netanyahu and his adviser, David Bar-Ilan.

Harel does not explain why on earth the Israeli media representatives in the US and the media in Israel should not have reported this perfectly legitimate and moderate expression of opinion by an important American Jewish organization.

The right-wing propagandists, on the other hand, were helping to sabotage the policies of an Israeli government by appealing to foreign officials and legislators. At one time, for example, they tried to foment American opposition to the idea of American forces as guarantors of an Israeli-Syrian agreement on the Golan Heights.

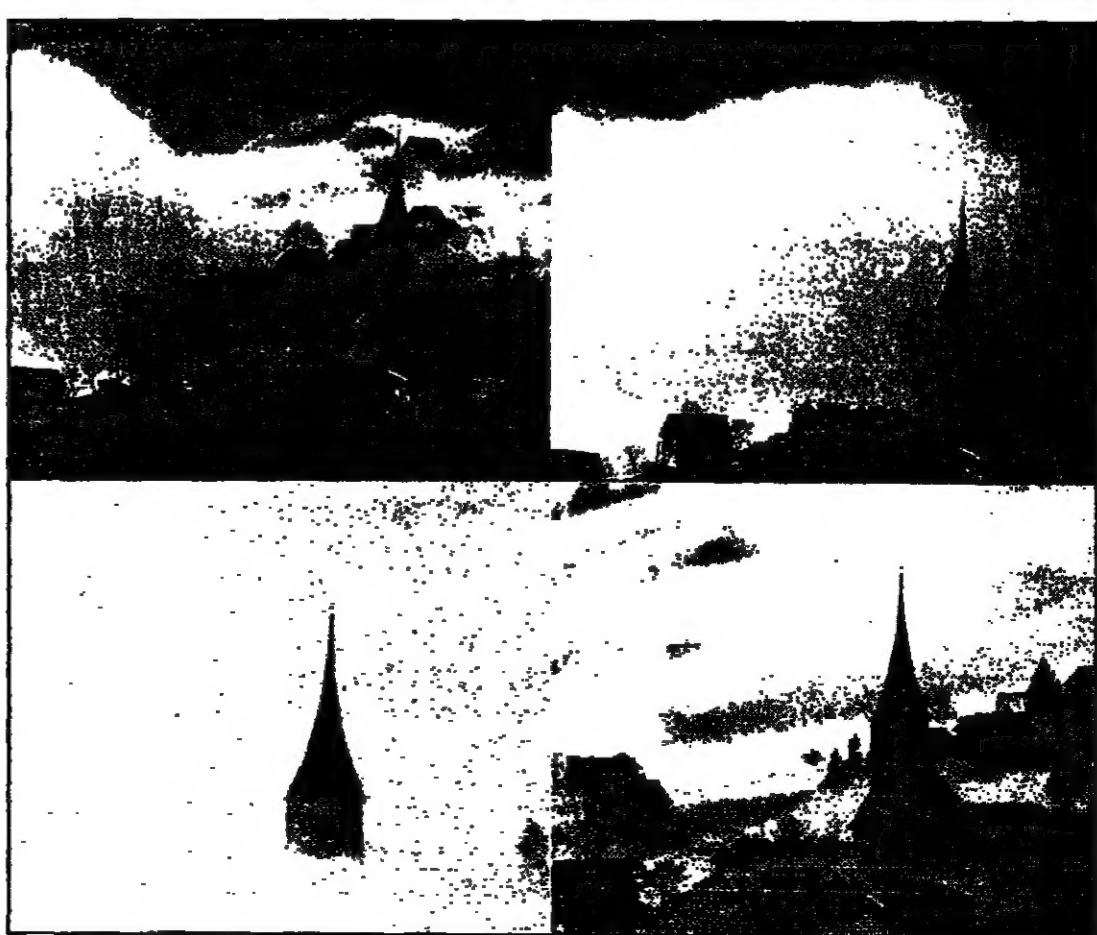
It would have been legitimate for Israelis to oppose this idea as damaging to Israeli interests, or for Americans to object to it from an American point of view. It was not legitimate for Israelis to try to persuade Americans to oppose an Israeli request if it should come from the government of Israel.

Harel accuses "the left" and its diplomatic collaborators of leveling "the harshest possible criticism" against their opponents and labeling them as "fundamentalist, militant and ... enemies of peace." Of course, he does not quote a single instance of such abuse.

MISHA LOUVICH

Jerusalem.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



You never know what the weather is going to do these days. Here in the Swiss village of Amden, thick fog alternated with clear blue skies and heavy cloud, making it rather difficult for the villagers to know what to wear for a morning stroll. These four photos were taken over a period of only 10 minutes.

2000-01-09

Visiting the sister you never had may heal family wounds

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I have an older sister with Down's syndrome. When she was a little girl, before I was born, my parents institutionalized her. I am not sure whether they visited her while I was growing up, but I have never seen her. They always told me that it would be better for me - socially and otherwise - if I did not discuss her. As I was growing up, I never gave her much thought, as she was somehow a "theoretical," rather than a real sibling.

I have lived in Israel now for several years; my parents remained in the US. Perhaps because Israel has given me a sense of my roots, I have begun to think about meeting my sister.

While planning my next trip to the US, I told my mother that I would like to meet my sister. She got very upset, and warned me not to open up old wounds.

Do you think that pursuing this is worth hurting my parents? Perhaps my interest in my sister actually stems from wanting to hurt them, or to feel morally superior?

At a Loss Over Loyalty
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Ruthie, I suspect that my husband is involved in something underhanded where finances are concerned. Either that, or something worse. Since he denies that anything is wrong whenever I raise the subject, I'm considering hiring a private detective in order to save our marriage or dissolve it. But, hiring a detective is very costly, so I would have to end up being equally underhanded about money. I just don't know what to do.

Suspicious Spouse
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Ruthie, I suspect that my husband is involved in something underhanded where finances are concerned. Either that, or something worse. Since he denies that anything is wrong whenever I raise the subject, I'm considering hiring a private detective in order to save our marriage or dissolve it. But, hiring a detective is very costly, so I would have to end up being equally underhanded about money. I just don't know what to do.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

You're not too busy to read this article, leisure experts say

YOU'RE not as busy as you think. Or at least that's what experts in leisure studies say. Free time, they contend, is actually on the rise.

"There's a big gap between perception and reality in time use," says John Robinson, director of the Americans' Use of Time Project at the University of Maryland. "People have a hard time accepting this."

Robinson's studies show that during a 168-hour week, men work an average of 42 hours, seven fewer than in 1965. Women work about 31 hours, down from 39 hours three decades ago. At the same time, leisure for men and women has increased six hours, from 34 to 40 hours a week.

So why does it feel as if there's not a minute to spare? One explanation is television. "For every extra hour of free time Americans have gained since 1965, they spend an extra hour watching the tube," Robinson says. "Television can keep you from noticing the additional free time."

A culture that promotes instant gratification also helps explain why life seems more hectic than it is. "We want everything fast - fast food, eyeglasses in an hour, drive-through banking. Internally, we feel rushed. And the more rushed someone feels, the more they feel pressed for time," says Geoffrey Godbey, a professor of leisure studies at Pennsylvania State University.

The problem isn't lack of time, Godbey says, it's self-delusion. "To admit you sit around watching TV with a can of beer is to say, 'I have no inner life. People constantly underestimate their free time and overestimate their work hours. They're in denial.' Those who are motivated to get off the couch are confronted with a tantalizing array of options, all seemingly worthy of a chunk of time, he adds. "Leisure is a mind set," Godbey says. "If you're running around building your identity around leisure activities, packing a lot into a day, you're going to feel

Learning from our dreams

Forget Freud. Whether you believe dreams are a conversation with God, or inner wisdom, Ruth Mason found a local, and living, analyst who can help understand personal and global visions

"A dream uninterpreted is like a letter unopened." - Berachot 55a.

Moss, the flier posted on lampposts and grocery store doors in the neighborhood's main street. "What do Einstein's theory of relativity, Mozart's music and Milton's Paradise Lost have in common?" the flier continued. "All were inspired by dreams." It went on to advertise a six-week workshop that would, among other things, teach participants to use "dream energy" to solve problems, unleash creativity, and conquer fears.

According to the Complete Oxford English Dictionary, to dream is "to have visions and imaginary sense impressions in sleep." But to the flier's author, self-made dream expert and social worker Tzippi Moss, dreams are much more than that. "There is an ancient notion, found also in Judaism, that our soul leaves the body while we're sleeping and that dreams are the soul's adventures or rendezvous with God or with spirits," says Moss. Indeed, in her workshop, she claims that "a dream can be God talking to you."

Some experts say dreams are just the brain's way of downloading all the input that comes in to us during the day and have no deeper meaning. "But," says Moss, who has read widely on the subject and has taught dream-work to adults, classroom teachers and children, including a course at Ofek, Jerusalem's enrichment program for gifted pupils, "more and more people are seeing dreams as a combination of the brain sorting through and making sense of information, and as having real meaning that can help us in our lives."

"When we dream, we are creating masterpieces every single night. All of us - the postman, the garbage collector, your hairdresser, the neighbor that you can't stand - are engaging in the same amazing process. I have found myself awe-struck by the beauty in people's dreams. Whether you call it God's way of talking through us or our own inner wisdom and creativity, it's clear that we all have powerful potential that we are not tapping into during our waking hours."

"Dreams come to teach us about ourselves, to open up new possibilities. They help us become aware of issues we might not have wanted to face, they help us know ourselves better."

Moss's workshop is designed to teach people to do just that. Six participants are gathered around a table on a cool night, ready to find out what can be learned from dreams. Initially, there is a warning to never analyze or interpret someone else's dream. Any interpretation, says Moss, may have more to do with us than with the dreamer. Instead, we listen, while keeping our own ideas on hold. There are many ways to tease out the secret messages dreams have for us. One member of the group shares a dream she had and the rest listen carefully.

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(Los Angeles Times)



Then each person takes turns responding as if it were their own dream. In this way the dreamer gets access to ideas and responses she may not have had but that may ring true to her.

ON ANOTHER occasion, Moss uses the "Marian" approach. "Let's pretend I'm from Mars and don't know anything about life on earth," she says. One workshop participant then tells about a recurring dream she had as a child: "I am crossing a street and a car comes zooming toward me. I need to decide whether I will keep going across, or turn back. Sometimes in the dream, I decide to keep going but then a force pulls me backward. If I decide to go back, the force pulls me forward. Either way, I end up on my hands and knees desperately trying to make it to the other side while the car gets closer and closer."

Pretending to be a naive extra-terrestrial, Moss asks, "What's a street? What's a car?" Sometimes her answers may provide you with a clue you might not have thought of otherwise. "What's the force?" she asks.

"Something sinister beyond my control pulling me toward disaster," says the dreamer. As always, Moss asks "What feelings are you aware of in the dream?" Panic, the dreamer says. "With recurring dreams, you need to ask, when did they begin? When did they end?" advises Moss. She then asks if her answers remind the dreamer of anything that was going on at the time. "It was during the Sinai cam-

paign," she says. "We were living on a kibbutz in the south and we were being shelled." For the first time she makes a connection between this mysterious, recurring dream and the frightening reality that was around her.

Another way to work with a dream is to diagram it. One way to do this is to make two columns: one for all major actions, and another for associated feelings. Often, the feelings that emerge can be clues about the connection this dream has with issues in the dreamer's life, says Moss.

"Dreams often allow us to have feelings that we repress in our waking life," says Moss. "If you're lucky enough to remember the dream, it can allow you to bring an awareness of a situation more into consciousness." Moss gives an example of a dream she had while she and her family were spending several years back in the US and were struggling with the decision of whether or not to return to Israel. (She hails from Milwaukee and lived in Minnesota.) "I had a very powerful dream in which I'm in a house, but I'm not sure whether it is in Israel or the US. The dream was telling me, 'You're not sure where your home is. It showed me my conflict in an image. I hadn't been that aware of how difficult this issue was for me.'"

Moss says some dream groups work out better than others, depending largely on participants' willingness to open up. "What I got out of Tzippi's workshop," says one participant, "was the notion that I should pay attention to and think about my

dreams because they might contain messages for my life."

"The other night I dreamt that a friend looked into my shirt pocket and saw a bundle of cash. She said, 'You're rich!' I replied, sarcastically, 'Oh, yeah, I have 150 shekels.' She looked me in the eyes and said, 'Some people only have four shekels.' When I woke up, I realized that what this person said in the dream was very relevant to my life. My kids drive me crazy, my marriage isn't what I imagined it would be. I have a huge overdraft. The dream was reminding me to focus on the positive, to count my blessings, to take a second look at all the wonderful things in my life that I take for granted. It was a reminder I needed."

Another participant found the workshop experience frustrating. "I felt we spent more time telling our dreams than working on them," she said. "And I wasn't willing to open up and get personal with people I'd only be with for six weeks." But several of those who have attended Moss's workshops have gone on to form their own informal dream groups.

Moss has a dream of her own: to create a "dreaming for peace" group that would be made up of Arabs and Jews, settlers and leftists, religious and secular, immigrants and natives. "Bringing together people of very different cultural, political, and religious orientations to share their dreams can foster tremendous understanding and respect," Moss says. She sees such a group as her personal contribution to the peace process.

Robert Daniell, liberator of Belsen, dies at 95

ROBERT Daniell, the British tank commander who smashed open the gates of the Belsen concentration camp in 1945, has died, aged 95.

Daniell was the first Allied witness to the horrors of Belsen. He was a lieutenant colonel in the 10th Hussars, who were operating in northwest Germany in April 1945. The column was nearing a German camp when an enemy major ran towards it. "I thought that was odd because you never saw a

German officer with his coat flapping," Daniell recalled in an interview with The Associated Press in 1992. "He said we shouldn't go on because there was disease ahead, typhoid. Tanks never took prisoners so we waved him behind us."

Ordered to check out the camp, Daniell crashed his tank through the gates, and encountered no resistance from guards. "I saw a man go to a door of a building and lock it. I shot the lock off and found it was the hospital. It was crammed with

diers of bunks on which lay starving, sick and helpless people. Those in the bottom tiers had drowned in urine and excrement coming down from those at the top," Daniell said.

"I walked down a slope to some large shelters, shot off the locks and found hundreds of naked and semi-naked skeletal people lying on straw. I tried to get them out but they were too frightened. I found five little children sitting on the naked, bloated body of a woman who must have been dead for a week.

"Then I heard shots and found corpses of prisoners who were shot by the guards as they tried to get over the wire when they heard our guns advancing."

"There were Hitler Youth shooting prisoners so they would die in agony, the men in the groin and the women up the backside. I was so disgusted I shot the guards with the last four rounds I had. They were the scum of the earth, horrible."

Daniell's unit did not linger at the camp, which still held more than 60,000 prisoners when it

was officially liberated three days later. Most were in critical condition, and there were 10,000 more rotting corpses on the ground and in the barracks.

In the first five days of liberation, 14,000 prisoners died and another 14,000 perished in the following weeks.

Daniell, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, retired in 1952 and then spent 20 years with the bodyguard of Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

(AP)

With Prejudice by Alex Berlyne

- ◆ The long-awaited second collection from Alex Berlyne's hilarious fortnightly Jerusalem Post column.
- ◆ Contains more than 60 of the very best "With Prejudice" articles written over the past few years.
- ◆ An eclectic grab bag of reminiscence, literary quotation, humor and attacks on Israeli and Jewish life.
- ◆ Anybody whose tastes run to well-written, funny and pointed essays will greatly appreciate this book. - *Ralph Amelan, The Jerusalem Post Literary Supplement*
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Israel's own agony aunt has the answers



Dear Ruthie, I miss reading Dear Abby. What should I do?

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Zim's Morgenstern resigns following \$2.1m. losses

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MATTY Morgenstern, general manager of Zim Israel Navigation Company, yesterday announced his resignation, several months after the company's performance started to deteriorate.

Zim is one of the largest container shipping companies in the world, offering transportation services along most major international trading routes. The company is controlled by the government and the Israel Corp., which each have a 48.6 percent holding. The remaining shares are held by private investors.

Sources close to the company said Morgenstern, who has held the position for 12 years, was forced to resign in reaction to pressure from Shaul Eisenberg, chairman of the Israel Corp. The Israel Corp. intends to implement major structural and managerial changes in Zim. It is anticipated that Eisenberg will become more involved in the management of the company in the future.

Zim completed the first nine months of the year with losses of more than \$2.1 million, mainly because of the worldwide crisis in the shipping field. As a result, the owners plan to float the company on local and overseas stock exchanges have been repeatedly put off in the last two years and attempts to find a strategic international partner have failed.

Morgenstern was unavailable for comment yesterday. A company spokesperson said the manager, who joined Zim 46 years ago, informed the Israel Corp. of his intentions to resign already in 1996 but at the request of the owners he postponed his resignation. The spokesperson emphasized Morgenstern was not forced to resign.

Zim's board of directors is expected to convene today to discuss the structural changes and appointment of a new manager. At the meeting, Morgenstern is expected to express his dissatisfaction with the way his planned resignation was leaked to the press.

Cabinet approves most structural reforms

DAVID HARRIS

THE cabinet yesterday unanimously approved the vast majority of the Treasury blueprint for structural reforms in the public sector.

Eighteen recommendations were accepted of the 25 formulated by the budget department over the last year. The remaining measures will be discussed at Friday's regular cabinet meeting.

Among the proposals approved were:

- Opening public transportation to competition, which according to Finance Minister Dan Meridor would lead to cheaper fares. The tenders for three major intercity routes will be advertised no later than the end of July. Routes to and within Modi'in also will be subject to tender and awarded to the cheapest operator.
- The establishment of a public committee to examine the possibility of raising retirement ages for men and women. Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef denied media reports yesterday that the cabinet was to consider increasing retirement ages for women to 65 and men to 70. Any recommendation will only be made by the committee set up to examine the issue, he said.

- Granting a third cellular telephone license before the end of June.
- Establishing a satellite television network.
- Opening new gasoline stations throughout the country. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said at least 250 are urgently required.

- Reforming the Standards Institute, so that it only has responsibility for essential checks such as health, safety and security.

The main objective of the proposals is to open many of Israel's largest monopolies to competition and deregulation. Additionally, the Treasury says, if implemented, the measures will bring about vast improvements in public sector management.

As a result of this process, Meridor said last night, growth will be encouraged, Israel will be able to compete better in the international marketplace, inflation will be reduced and there will be improvements in quality of service and efficiency.

Treasury officials are denying the peripheral

areas of the country will be negatively affected by the changes. When similar measures were implemented in Britain, including deregulation of public transportation, many who lived away from the cities claimed they were in receipt of far poorer services. However, Treasury sources say in actual fact there will be many improvements.

In the case of television broadcasts, for example, those living in the peripheries will be able to receive the planned satellite broadcasts, while many are unable to see the existing cable pictures. With regard to public transportation, they say that by opening operations up to competition, route by route, based on the lowest tender bid, customers, if anything, will benefit from cheaper, more efficient services. These concessions, add the sources, are likely to last for three to four years, as opposed to the current licenses, which Egged or Dan hold for 12 months at a time.

Meanwhile, the government's privatization plans will be unveiled before the end of this month. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last night.

Rogovin family sells ownership of building firm for \$30m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Rogovin family has sold its ownership of Rogovin Building Investment & Development for \$30 million, to two groups of investors headed by businessman Ezra Hakhshouri and Yossi Granot.

Rogovin is a public company engaged in construction of housing and commercial property and ownership and management of rental properties. The company was founded by the Rogovin family in 1936.

The family sold a package of shares consisting of 57.77 percent of Rogovin's shareholder's equity and 67.88% of the voting rights Monday. Most of the shares were held by Jacob Rogovin, president and CEO of the firm, who wants to retire from the company in order to engage in private business.

The shares were sold based on a company valuation of \$51.9m.,

63% above the company's market value.

Hakhshouri represents a group of U.S., Canadian and European investors while Granot, who in the past served as manager of Mario Laznik, heads a group of local and foreign investors. The new owners are expected to appoint Granot general manager and Hakhshouri chairman of the company.

Rogovin's principal properties are an 8,000 sq.m. commercial center in Rishon LeZion which it is constructing together with Azorim, a 23,000 sq.m. high-tech center in Herzliya Pituah and an 8,300 sq.m. office building, in which the company has a 40% participation, in the heart of Tel Aviv. In addition the company has other offices, commercial and industrial buildings for rent in Herzliya, Ramat Gan and Tel Aviv.

Tadiran Telecommunications receives \$15m. order from Belgacom

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TADIRAN Telecommunications Ltd. has received a three-year, \$15 million contract to provide Belgacom, the Belgian telecom provider, with its TadiGain equipment, the Petah Tikva-based company announced yesterday.

The TadiGain equipment is based on HDSL technology, which allows telecommunications company to transfer voice and data more quickly over the existing copper wire infrastructure.

Tadiran Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd. which was launched as an independent company two years ago and went public on Nasdaq in April, announced a host of new contracts recently.

Tadiran Telecommunications won a \$10m. contract to supply

Telecom Argentina with a wireless system to connect residential and business subscribers to the public network, as well as deals to supply \$5m. of equipment to the Polish government's phone company and install a \$2m. digital communications network in Bulgaria.

Most recently the company said it completed the first phase of its framework agreement with a Peruvian cellular operator to install an advanced wireless local loop system in Lima for \$4.5 million.

Meanwhile, Tadiran Ltd. yesterday said that it expects to report a drop in fourth quarter 1996 earnings due to a slowdown in Israel's economy. The slowdown is also expected to hurt Tadiran Telecommunications income.

China says rewards help shut illegal CD factories

BEIJING (Reuters) - China said yesterday its hefty rewards for tips on pirating operations were showing results after help from the public had led to the closure of 20 illegal compact disc factories in the past month.

The official Xinhua news agency said the plants were closed after local residents tipped off authorities who have been offering rewards of up to 300,000 yuan (\$37,000) for information on pirating operations.

All of the production lines were using imported equipment and were in the fast-growing southern province of Guangdong, the agency said.

"They were engaged in the pro-

duction of unauthorized and pornographic laser discs and compact discs," the agency said.

Seven provinces and cities where piracy has been considered rampant have been targeted in the drive.

China has said authorities confiscated 10 million illegal laser discs, compact discs and other electronic publishing items in a crackdown on pornography and piracy of intellectual property rights last year.

China and the United States went to the brink of a multi-billion trade war last year over Washington's allegations that Beijing was not doing enough to combat violations of intellectual property rights.



Bae Bun-sik, head of the Korea Auto Workers Federation, performs his daily exercises yesterday in front of a building on the grounds of Seoul's Myeongdong cathedral, where he and other outlaws labor leaders are taking refuge. South Korean strike leaders gave the government until next week to scrap its new labor law or face a total stoppage by public sector workers. (Reuters)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sweden's Trade Minister Bjorn Von Sydow will lead a 25-member trade delegation to Israel next week.

The five-day visit, at the invitation of Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, will include meetings with Sharansky, Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel.

The delegation, which includes leading businesspeople, also will attend seminars on the local economy, cooperation within the Middle East, local high-tech industries and scientific and technological research.

Sydow will visit the technological incubator at Ness Ziona, meet representatives of the Israel Export Institute, Manufacturers Association and Chambers of Trade Federation. The minister also will spend a day in the Palestinian-controlled areas.

Israeli exports to Sweden reached \$87.5 million in 1995, with \$386m. of imports. In the first nine months last year, exports were up 10 percent and imports 11% compared to the same period in 1995. During 1996, Swedish companies such as Volvo, SAS and Telia invested in Israel for the first time. David Harris

The US Commerce Department recently announced that it imposed an \$18,000 civil penalty on Aurora Pump of North Aurora, Illinois, for violating the US's antiboycott provisions. The department alleged that Aurora Pump violated the provisions by informing the Kuwaiti government that one of the company's ships that was carrying goods to Kuwait was not on the Israel Boycott Bureau's black list. According to US law, which prohibits companies from participating directly and indirectly in the Arab boycott against Israel, American companies are not allowed to answer questions Arab governments may ask pertaining to Israel. The manufacturer of industrial and commercial pumps also failed to report that it had been asked boycott-related questions. Jennifer Friedlin

Israeli holiday islands move a step closer

DAVID HARRIS

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon has begun investigating the feasibility of constructing artificial islands along the Mediterranean coastline.

Sharon has been a longtime supporter of constructing holiday/business islands opposite Israel's major coastal cities. Senior civil servants, including the heads of the National Infrastructure Ministry, Water Commission, Earth Sciences Research Administration, together with a representative of the Technion, met Sharon recently to discuss implementation of the project.

The first step will be to set up an administration team within the ministry to assess the planning and construction requirements. "I am in favor of the construc-

tion of these islands," said Sharon. "It is my intention to implement this. It could change the quality of life for those who live along Israel's coast." The minister said it is important to take into account ecological considerations, while planning the project.

The islands, which will house hotels, various tourist facilities, transport links and possibly apartments for sale, will be built approximately 1 kilometer offshore. Sharon hopes work on the first island, opposite Tel Aviv, will commence before the end of the century.

The National Infrastructure Ministry says it will work alongside the Prime Minister's Office in advancing the plans.

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Purchase Price: 114.75	Purchase Price: 159.93
Redemption Price: 113.26	Redemption Price: 157.57
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Date: 7.1.97	Date: 7.1.97
Purchase Price: 159.93	Purchase Price: 159.93
Redemption Price: 157.57	Redemption Price: 157.57
leumi pia	leumi pia

Israel electric חברת החשמל

TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, Inc. VAT (non-refundable)
584781	Rutenberg B Power Station - Units 3 and 4	NIS 351
CM-75101	BALL VALVES Stage 1 - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices	

Last date for submitting bids: February 17, 1997, at 11 a.m.

PRECONDITIONS:

1. Participation in a tender is subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
2. Bidders who omit to provide a copy of any permit, permission, license, or any other document required in the pre-conditions, may be allowed to complete their documentation and submit such document(s), within a stated time to be determined by the Israel Electric Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615455/4).

Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused on Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Tenders Dept. at the above address. Bids should arrive at the offices of the Tenders Dept., room 710, 7th floor, in the Pal-Yam building, Haifa (address as above), by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
Currency (deposit for)			
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.675	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.1.97)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	BUY	SELL	Rate
Currency basket	3.5850	3.6430			2.8145
U.S. dollar	3.2185	3.2715	3.18	3.22	3.2470
German mark	2.0485	2.0827	2.01	2.12	2.0630
French franc	5.4428	5.5308	5.34	5.51	5.4800
Japanese yen (100)	0.0087	0.0095	0.008	0.009	0.0095
Dutch florin	2.7816	2.8295	2.73	2.87	2.8040
Swiss franc	1.6252	1.6557	1.73	1.89	1.8370
Swedish krona	2.3804	2.4078	2.35	2.45	2.3880
Norwegian krona	0.4889	0.4894	0.45	0.48	0.4648
Danish krona	0.4882	0.5043	0.48	0.52	0.4987
Finland mark	0.5374	0.5491	0.52	0.56	0.5411
Canadian dollar	0.6882	0.6963	0.67	0.71	0.6889
Australian dollar	2.3804	2.4198	2.33	2.46	2.3921
S. African rand	0.0649	0.0657	0.06	0.07	0.0630
Belgian franc (100)	2.9127	3.0110	0.97	1.03	1.0000
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8889	2.1225	2.86	3.01	2.8930
Italian lire (1,000)	2.0882	2.1225	2.06	2.16	2.1000
Jordanian dinar	4.4800	4.7800	4.48	4.78	4.5800
Egyptian pound	0.9100	1.0000	0.91	1.00	1.0000
ECU	3.9778	4.0418	3.95	4.05	4.0000
Irish punt	5.3586	5.4451	5.26	5.33	5.3000
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4363	2.4756	2.39	2.51	2.4500

*These rates vary according to bank.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ROBERT DANIEL



Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 172.5 million of shares traded, 15% more than the month's daily average of NIS 150.2m. and nearly twice

December's average of NIS 84.6m. About 6.5 issues rose for every five that declined.

Israel Chemicals was the most-active issue, trading NIS 12.2m. of shares.

Shares of Supersol Ltd. slipped 1% to NIS 8.79 after the super-market operator was cut to "buy on weakness" from "buy" at Zamech Securities. The securities firm expects Supersol's 1997 earnings per share to drop 7.3% from an estimate of NIS 0.58 for 1996.

Demand for the smaller stocks is weakening, Inyav said.

Among the ones that follows is builder Mirvar Holdings, which has doubled in the past few months. It closed 3% lower yesterday.

Koor Industries Ltd. rose 0.5% to NIS 304.84 while Koor subsidiary Tadiran Ltd. slipped 0.25% to 94.44. Bezeq jumped 2.75% to NIS 8.44.

Among other chemical companies, Dead Sea Works eased 0.5% to 8.82, Makhteshim climbed 1.25% to 14.5. Agan added 1.5% to 56.67 and Bromine leaped 4% to NIS 17.65. Elco Holdings moved up 0.75%. (Bloomberg)

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks turned sharply lower yesterday in heavy trading after interest rates rose toward their highest level since late October in the bond market.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 51.18 points to close at 6,549.48, after spending much of the day slightly below Tuesday's record-high close, which was the first ever above 6,600 for the blue-chip barometer. Broader measures turned negative with bonds, surrendering some modest gains.

Declining issues outnumbered
advancers by a narrow margin on
the New York Stock Exchange,
with 1,252 up, 1,290 down and
811 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 556.56 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 538.19m. in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list fell 4.82 to 748.41; and the NYSE's composite index fell 1.65 to 395.25.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 7.32 to 1,320.41, and the American Stock Exchange composite index rose 1.09 to 576.72.

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares made little headway, closing slightly firmer yesterday as a faltering Wall Street dragged the FTSE 100 index of leading shares back after an earlier rally. The FTSE closed 8.7 points higher at 4,087.5.

PARIS - French stocks finished higher in line with other European markets, which were buoyed by a new record on Wall Street and the

dollar's strength. The blue-chip CAC-40 index finished up 29.93 points, or 1.3%, at 2,331.62.

TOKYO — Japanese stocks took another steep tumble, with the key market index falling 1.14% to its lowest close in more than a year on deepening gloom about the economy. The benchmark Nikkei 225 average shed 215.81 points or 1.14% to close at 18,680.38.

(Continued from Page 1).
expected. This time Ramon, who
once described the Labor estab-
lishment as suicidal whales, used
the image of Gulliver and the
Lilliputians.

He warned Barak not to listen to the party functionaries "whispering in your ear, trying to create a dependency on them which will prevent you from reaching the broad public. You think you'll be able to shake yourself free of them."

"You are a literary man," Ramon continued. "And I know you must have read *Gulliver Travels*. You remember that picture when thousands of tiny Lilliputians were Gulliver with their threads and he thinks he can easily rip them off. You too will think that, but you won't be able to break the threads and reach the public."

He called for open primaries so that "300,000, 400,000 or even 500,000 can vote for the best can-

didate. He will be the captain and we will all unite around him. The one elected by so many will be elected prime minister as well. But one who is elected only by the party functionaries, will be only party chairman, not prime minister."

Barak commented later, "I am not Gulliver, and I'm not surrounded by dwarves. I'm a captain with a team."

At the opening of the convention Labor Chairman Shimon Peres called for unity in the party and urged the leadership contenders to act with restraint and refrain from causing a rift in the party.

A mini-drama preceded the convention, when it became apparent that all the speakers wanted to address the delegates last. At the end, convention presidium chairman David Liba'i held a lottery, and Ramon won, with Barak winning the slot of one before last.

(Continued from Page 1)
fix a meeting between Arafat and Netanyahu was due entirely to Netanyahu's behavior.
"Netanyahu's statements are true picture of the disaster the peace process is going through. The man hates the Oslo agreement ... It is not that Netanyahu has difficulties inside his government [on guaranteeing deployment dates]. He himself hates the agreement more than any other minister. His excuses are the vilest deceit."

The statements which angered Arafat concerned Netanyahu's claim in a talk to Israel Broadcasting Corp. radio that the Oslo agreement "is a bad agreement... negotiated without attention to military and security details."

that the three redeployment dates scheduled in Oslo 2 are expected to lead to complete Palestinian control by September 1997. "91% of the West Bank, everything except borders and settlements."

The PA currently controls some 27% in areas A and B. Israel has offered 2% more in the first reduction of employment.

Meanwhile, Israelis and Palestinians did agree on something yesterday. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Palestinian negotiator Sa'ed Erekat signed a joint appeal to all countries to broaden the international observer force in Hebron from 30 to 180 participants in the city once a Hebron deal is struck.

So far, only Norwegians, British, French, German, Italian, Danish, Swedish, American, and Swiss observers, but the other countries which are being asked to join are Belgium, Austria, Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

Gold PM for
Gold PM for
Silver for

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

[illegible]

Ethiopians clean up in Tiberias run

HEATHER CHAIT

THE Ethiopian runners collected the honors at the 20th Tiberias Marathon yesterday but the real drama of the day was provided by the local women athletes.

Two hundred yards before the finishing line, 25-year-old Ella Krimus, the second placed woman behind Alemitu Bekele from Ethiopia, collapsed and was helped to her feet by a bystander along the route. Disoriented and confused, Krimus summoned up what strength she could and managed to reach the line, where she immediately received medical attention. Her time was 2:53:00, twelve seconds behind Bekele.

The controversy erupted when Ilya Bar-Zeev, the coach of third-placed Nili Abramski, sought Krimus's disqualification on the grounds that she had accepted help. Legally, no runner may be touched during the race.

Krimus responded that she had not been aware of the help proffered to her and that she had finished the race alone. Her pleas were refused by two sittings of the appeals committee which included a viewing of the video.

In announcing the disqualification, Professor Uri Goldbourt, head of the committee, said, "We saw in the video that she was supported, helped to the ground and then raised again. If she had not been helped, she wouldn't have got up again."

Following the decision, Abramski, with a time of 2:53:27, moved into second place and first among the local women, with Idit Ganot Keren-Zvi second.

At the stormy press conference after the race, Krimus accused the organizers of discrimination against her as an immigrant from Russia. "I feel the difference in treatment to Israeli and immigrant runners, it's not fair," said Krimus. "I finished the race alone."

The men's race, in comparison,

was highlighted by exchanges of leaders, not insults.

Ethiopian Gemachu Kebede set off powerfully and sprinted to a half-way time of 1:06:26 with Kenya's Ambros Mutiawawa hard on his heels. Just seven kilometers before the end of the 42km race, Kebede's energy was spent and he sank behind, opening the way for a neck-and-neck battle between Ethiopian resident Lemi Chenege and Ethiopian immigrant Assaf Bimro.

The two runners maintained their pace up to the end line where Chenege burst ahead of Bimro for his third Tiberias title. His time was 2:16:41, four seconds in front of Bimro.

Their times were considered good, given the unseasonable temperatures of over 20 degrees.

Bimro's result was the best local time ever recorded inside Israel (Dov Kremer's time in Helsinki in 1994 was 2:15:45) and the athlete was besieged after the race.

"I didn't feel good in the beginning but after 25km, I began to close in and was more concentrated. This has not been a good year for me but now I feel more hopeful," he said.

Chenege won \$5,000 with Bimro receiving \$2,500 and a bonus of NIS 1,500 donation.

Eighteen-year-old Bekele, in her first marathon, received \$2,500 with Abramski taking NIS 5,000.

In the other races yesterday, Moked Darba won the 12km run in 37:38, ahead of Yosef Gizacho in 38:17 and Kobi Benafshi's time of 38:34. Orna Balu won the women's 5km in 47:10.

Aziz Vism from Club Hotel Tiberias won the first women's race of 500m, balancing his tray holding a bottle and two full glasses along the distance.

The main sponsors of the marathon were Radisson Moriah Hotel, Nike and Nevio.

Hawks hot at home as Phoenix falls

ATLANTA (AP) — Henry James hit a 3-pointer with one second left in overtime Tuesday night to give the Atlanta Hawks their 12th straight home victory, 105-103 over the Phoenix Suns.

For most of the night, the Hawks relied on their other two frontcourt players, Christian Laettner and Dikembe Mutombo. Laettner scored 30 points, including a 3-pointer with 24.2 seconds left in regulation which sent the game to overtime, and Mutombo had 22 points and 21 rebounds.

The lead changed hands five times in the final 1:08 of the extra period, capped off by James's shot from the top of the 3-point arc with Kevin Johnson right in his face. James, who has played with five other NBA teams, began this season with the Sioux Falls Sky Force of the Continental Basketball League.

Knicks 102, Mavericks 72. The visiting Dallas Mavericks barely avoided their lowest point total ever.

Only a 30-point fourth quarter allowed Dallas to avoid flirring with the lowest point total in NBA history. The Mavericks seemed to be on pace to break the franchise low of 68, but backup center Greg Dreiling had a putback and the third 3-pointer of his 10-year career in the final 32 seconds.

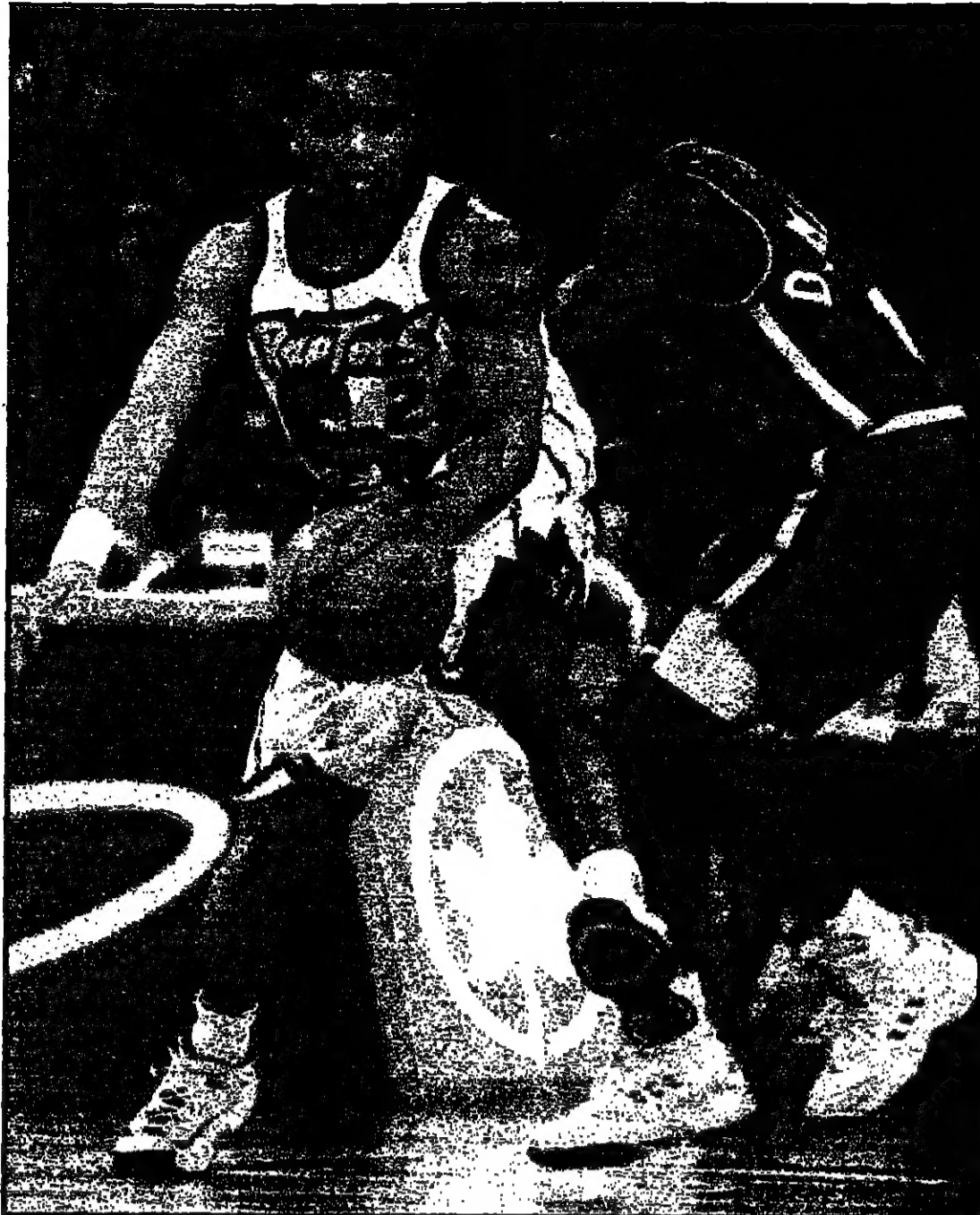
Low points included a nine-point first quarter in which the Mavericks missed their final 17 shots, a 19-point second quarter in which they fell behind by 30 points and a third quarter in which the deficit reached 41.

John Starks led the Knicks with 21 points. Patrick Ewing had 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocks in 29 minutes for New York, which played without starters Chris Childs (back spasms) and Larry Johnson (hamstring).

Clippers 87, Raptors 80. Loy Vaught had 21 points and 14 rebounds as the visiting Los Angeles Clippers rallied to win their fourth straight.

Damon Stoudamire scored 25 points for the Raptors, who have lost four in a row.

Stoudamire made two straight baskets to give Toronto its biggest lead of the game, 67-53, with 6:41 left in the third quarter. But Rodney Rogers, who had 15



LEAPING LIZARDS — Toronto Raptors' Damon Stoudamire keeps back L.A. Clippers' Derrick Martin during their game at the SkyDome Tuesday.

points and 10 rebounds, sparked a 15-2 Clippers run that cut the margin to 69-66 after three quarters. The Clippers then held Toronto to 11 points in the final quarter to

post their longest winning streak of the season. Rockets 104, Timberwolves 95. Clyde Drexler scored a season-high 37 points and Hakeem

Olaajunwo shook off a poor shooting performance with 14 fourth-quarter points as Houston rallied to beat Minnesota. The loss snapped Minnesota's

home winning streak at four games and improved Houston's road record to 13-2, best in the Western Conference.

Drexler, who had his previous high of 36 in a victory at Minnesota on December 10, scored 11 in the final period, including a three-point play as the Rockets wiped out Minnesota's lead with a 9-0 run to start the fourth.

Olaajunwo was just 4-for-17 through three quarters, but he scored four points in a 7-0 run that gave Houston the lead for good at 85-82 with 5:37 remaining. He finished with 22 points and 12 rebounds.

Nets 90, Spurs 74. Jayson Williams, returning after missing 10 games with injuries, had 19 points and 16 rebounds as host New Jersey won.

Williams, who had been sidelined with torn ligaments in his right thumb and a strained right knee, helped the Nets snap a three-game losing streak.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	24	8	.750	—
Orlando	24	8	.750	—
Washington	19	15	.562	7
Charlotte	12	22	.353	14
Philadelphia	9	25	.262	17 1/2
Boston	7	23	.233	19 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	24	8	.750	—
Indiana	21	11	.656	3 1/2
Cleveland	21	11	.656	3 1/2
Atlanta	19	13	.594	5 1/2
Charlotte	18	14	.563	6 1/2
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	8 1/2
Memphis	15	17	.469	9 1/2
Toronto	10	22	.313	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	25	7	.781	—
Utah	24	8	.750	—
Minnesota	14	18	.438	11
Dallas	10	20	.333	15 1/2
San Antonio	9	22	.293	16 1/2
Denver	9	23	.286	17 1/2
Vancouver	6	27	.182	19 1/2

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	25	10	.714	—
Seattle	24	11	.686	—
Portland	19	15	.559	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	14	19	.424	10 1/2
Sacramento	14	21	.400	11
Golden State	12	19	.387	11 1/2
Phoenix	10	23	.305	14 1/2

TUESDAY'S RESULTS: L.A. Clippers 87, Toronto 80; New York 90, Dallas 72; New Jersey 90, San Antonio 74; Orlando 89, Philadelphia 88; Atlanta 105, Phoenix 103 (OT); Milwaukee 85, Detroit 76; Indiana 95, Cleveland 90; Houston 104, Minnesota 95; Seattle 94, Miami 85; Denver 109, Sacramento 96.

Keegan stuns Newcastle with shock resignation

NEWCASTLE (AP) — Kevin Keegan, who transformed Newcastle from a struggling lower division side to Premier League giant, resigned as manager yesterday in a move that shocked the English soccer world.

Keegan, who had been in charge at Newcastle since 1992 and was considered a "messiah" by the team's supporters, stepped down in mid-season with the Magpies in fourth place — five points behind league-leading Liverpool.

"This is a black day for Newcastle," said the city's Lord Mayor, Les Russell.

No specific reason was given for Keegan's departure, which had been rumored for weeks but still came as a huge surprise since the club is still in contention for league, Cup and European honors.

"It was my decision and my decision alone," the 45-year-old Keegan said. "I offered my resignation at the end of last season but was persuaded by the board to stay. I feel I have taken the club as far as I can and that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if I resigned."

The club said Keegan told the board he no longer wanted to stay in soccer management.

Following lengthy discussions at which the board tried to persuade Keegan to change his mind, both parties agreed that the best route forward was for the club to reluctantly accept his resignation with immediate effect," the statement said.

Keegan's assistant Terry McDermott and coach Arthur Cox assumed temporary control of team affairs.

"I am stunned — probably shocked is the right word," McDermott said. "The players are very sad

because he was a very well-respected person both on and off the field. The lads loved playing for him."

Former Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish, who resigned as manager of Blackburn after winning the title in 1995, was listed by British bookmakers as 4-5 favorite to replace Keegan.

Other possible candidates included McDermott, Deportivo La Coruna manager John Toshack, Aston Villa manager Brian Little, former Barcelona manager Johann Cruyff and Inter Milan boss Roy Hodgson.

Newcastle director Douglas Hall paid tribute to Keegan in a separate statement.

"Kevin took over at the helm of a club destined for the Second Division and scaled the heights of the Premier League with a style of football never before seen at St. James Park," he said.

"Kevin leaves the club in a far stronger position than when he arrived and the squad of players he has built up is one of the strongest in Europe."

The reasons for Keegan's resignation were clouded in mystery.

"I wouldn't have a clue," former England teammate Ray Wilkins said. "He's assembled a side capable of winning things in Europe, of possibly winning the league championship or Cup in England. Only Kevin would know the reasons why."

There was speculation that Keegan couldn't cope with the pressure from the fans and media. Despite Newcastle's success under Keegan, the team has failed to win any trophies and the manager has been criticized for the club's poor defensive record.

Hundreds of stunned Newcastle fans, many of them in tears, gathered outside the club's ground at St. James's Park after learning of Keegan's departure.

Hobbled Maccabi hopes to overcome Alba, Alexis

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

IT'S reunion time tonight when Maccabi Tel Aviv returns to Euroleague action, opening the second swing of play against Germany's Alba Berlin, where they will be up against former Maccabi player Wendell Alexis.

Alexis, who played for Maccabi two years ago, is now the star of an Alba club that has been simply outstanding in German league play, going 18-0 so far. The former Syracuse University star is an all-around player, mixing fine defense with smooth moves to the hoop, and has become a fan favorite in Berlin, where Alba plays before sell-out crowds in a brand new arena.

Alexis isn't the only threat Maccabi must face tonight: Veteran point guard Sasha Obradovic has been through the European basketball wars, and is likely to be heavily relied upon by Alba's outstanding coach Svatoslav Passic. Obradovic is as much a threat to score as he is to make a fine pass, and is known as a tough defender.

Shooting guard Henrik Rudl will also have to be closely watched. Rudl, who handles the ball well

and plays point guard for the German national team, drives exceedingly hard to the hoop, but can also shoot well from beyond the three-point stripe. A fan favorite, he's likely to see a great deal of either Derrick Sharp or Borko Radovic in an attempt to keep him out of the offense.

Maccabi would do well to foul Alba's center Sasha Hoffmann, who does a fairly good Shaquille O'Neal imitation from the line. Hoffmann's a very physical player, but Buck Johnson or Randy White should be able to slip past him inside.

As for Alexis, he's bound to be out for a bit of revenge against Maccabi, which let him go even though he played fairly well for them. Alba is known for trying to play an up-tempo game, so Maccabi needs to control the rebounds to prevent that from occurring.

As for Coach Zvi Scherf's club, its return to Euroleague play comes at a time when the club is not at its healthiest. The most serious problem is with Brad Leaf, who is nursing an injury and will miss tonight's game. Johnson is recovering from an illness and arrived in Berlin a day after his teammates. Constantin Pope has also been sick, meaning Maccabi is at less than full strength as it begins the next stage of Euroleague play in a Group E that includes two of the clubs it has already faced — Stefanel Milan and CSKA Moscow — and three it hasn't: Alba, Greece's Olympiakos, and Belgium's Charleroi, the latter expected to be the Group E doormats.

Oded Katash needs to rediscover his European shooting eye, while Randy White tries to show Maccabi fans why he was recently selected to a European all-star team. Pope is looking to continue where he left off after his outstanding showing vs. Ulker, while Sharp and Radovic aim to add to their recent outstanding minutes in practice games the club played during the break. If they do, Maccabi can look forward to drawing first blood in what should be increasingly tough Euroleague play.

The game will be shown live on Channel 1 at 9:15 pm.

NBA lists top 10 teams of all time

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Two editions of the Boston Celtics, Chicago Bulls, Los Angeles Lakers and Philadelphia 76ers are among the top 10 teams in NBA history, according to a list compiled for the "NBA at 50" anniversary celebration.

The teams were selected in balloting among media members that regularly cover the league. Voters were asked to select their top 10 teams without ranking them.

The 1964-65 and 1985-86 Celtics, the 1991-92 and 1995-96 Bulls, the 1966-67 and 1982-83 Lakers and the 1971-72 and 1987-88 Lakers qualified for the list, as did the 1969-70 New York Knicks and the 1988-89 Detroit Pistons.

Bill Russell, Sam Jones and John Havlicek led the first of the Boston teams, which won an epic East Finals from the Sixers on the way to the NBA title. The deciding seventh game produced the famed "Havlicek stole the ball" call by Johnny Most.

Larry Bird led the 1986 team that defeated Houston in the NBA Finals.

Michael Jordan dominated both of the Chicago teams on the list, including last season's 1995-96 team that won an NBA-record 72 regular season games.

Jerry West, Wilt Chamberlain and Gail Goodrich led the 1971-72 Lakers team that won a record 33 consecutive regular season games and had the best road winning percentage in NBA history (.816).

Fifteen years later, Magic Johnson sparked the "Showtime" edition of the Lakers that beat Boston in the NBA Finals.

The 1966-67 Sixers, behind Chamberlain, started the season 46-4 and defeated the San Francisco Warriors in the NBA Finals. The next NBA title for the franchise was by the 1982-83 team led by Julius Erving and Moses Malone.

The 1969-70 Knicks were considered among the best passing teams in NBA history and defeated the Lakers in the Finals behind Walt Frazier and an inspired performance by injured center Willis Reed, who hobbled on to the court before Game Seven and scored the first two baskets.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER: Yesterday's English League Cup quarter-final results: Bolton 0, Wimbledon 2; Middlesbrough 2, Liverpool 1. NHL — Tuesday's results: Pittsburgh 5, N.Y. Islanders 3; Philadelphia 7, Boston 3; Edmonton 3, St. Louis 2; Calgary 4, Toronto 3; (OT); Los Angeles 6, Vancouver 2; Buffalo 3, San Jose 1.

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Jordanians protest Israeli trade fair in Amman

AMMAN (AP) — Security forces on horses and camels blocked more than 4,000 angry protesters yesterday from disrupting the opening of the first Israeli trade fair in Jordan.

The protesters, chanting "Allahu akbar," or "God is great," tried to push through police six deep about a kilometer from the fair site, but could not get nearer. Police firing water cannons failed to disperse the crowd.

After six hours of noisy but peaceful protest, the participants dispersed quietly, saying labor and trade unions would hold a three-day strike against the fair. It opened yesterday despite the demonstration, though it began three hours behind schedule.

The crowd carried banners reading "Jordan is not the Zionist bridge to the Arab world" and "A massacre in Hebron and an exhibition in Amman," referring to Pzt. Noam Friedman's shooting spree in Hebron last week.

There were no reports of injuries or arrests in Tuesday's protest on the outskirts of Amman. It developed into a standoff between the demonstrators and about 1,000 police, some on horses and camels and others leading dogs. Many of the police were armed with assault rifles and clubs.

"We reject dealing with the Zionist enemy in view of its aggression on Arab countries," said Khalil Haddadin, a member of Parliament representing the Jordanian branch of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, the ruling party in both Syria and Iraq.

The protest — the largest in

Amman since the 1990-91 Gulf war — underlines growing opposition to normalizing ties with Israel while Israeli-Palestinian peace talks remain stalled.

Efforts to cancel the trade fair have been led by Islamic fundamentalists. But lack of progress in the Middle East peace process also drew many members of centrist political parties.

Representatives of 20 of the 23 recognized political parties were taking part in the protest. The demonstrators included legislators, trade union activists and members of women's federations and Islamic fundamentalist groups.

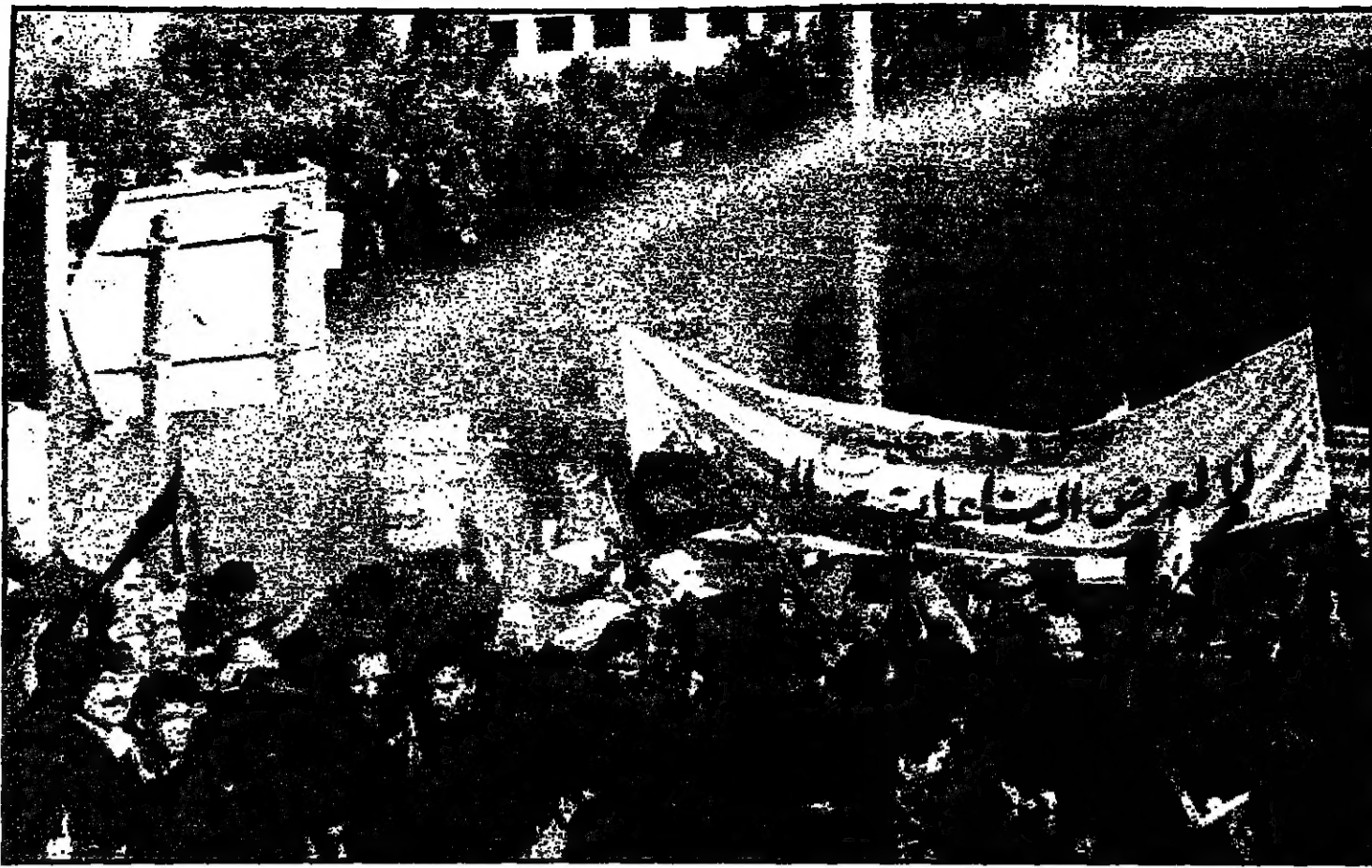
At the blue hangar where the fair is being held, fair officials and representatives of Israeli companies could be seen watching the demonstration. About 200 Israeli companies had been expected to take part, but only 70 sent exhibits, apparently because of efforts to stop the fair.

Police had blocked off all streets leading to the fair, meaning many invited guests were unable to reach the exhibition hangar, which is painted inside with the blue and white colors of the Israeli flag.

Aran Ayyash, an interior decorator from Herzliya, said he was frightened by the anger of the protesters.

"When you find people who don't want you, you feel afraid," he said.

Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir said in inaugurating the fair that "it is the right of opposition groups to protest because Jordan is a democratic country."



Amman police fire a water cannon over Jordanians protesting against the Israeli trade fair which opened there yesterday. (Reuters)

Ben Yair: I resigned over lack of trust

EVERLYN GORDON

THE cabinet is to choose a new attorney-general tomorrow, outgoing Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said yesterday at a parting press conference.

The attorney-general took the opportunity to express his opinion on several issues on the public agenda.

Ben-Yair strongly supported abolishing procedural immunity for MKs, and praised Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon's decision to set up a public commission to study the issue.

Procedural immunity, which was established in 1951 to prevent the government from harassing opposition MKs via the legal system, was understandable in the

context of its time, he said, as no one yet knew how the legal system would turn out.

"But there has never been a case which justified this fear. Therefore, there is no reason to continue this procedural immunity," he continued, noting that it has also increasingly been abused by MKs who use the Knesset to escape prosecution. "And one of the most important foundations of the rule of law... is the principle of equality: That everyone is equal before the law."

Ben-Yair said one of the weakest points of the law enforcement system is police investigations. In recent years, the police have been diverting more and more funds to security at the expense of investigations, and the result is an outdated, slow system with inadequate

manpower and equipment, he said.

Ben-Yair also said he thought the investigation of accidental deaths in the army should be removed from the IDF's hands.

"The investigation of both training accidents and operational accidents should be given to an external body," he said — not because of a lack of faith in the army, but on the general principle that no body should investigate itself.

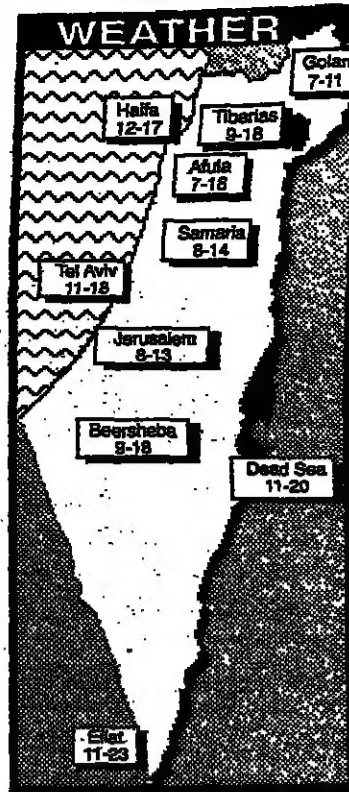
For the first time, Ben-Yair also elaborated on his reasons for retiring.

"With the establishment of the new government an almost impossible situation was created, in which there was an almost instantaneous, and ongoing, fear that [I] would be replaced. I

thought this was something that should not be done, and I'm glad the government didn't do it... [but it created] an ongoing feeling of alienation and lack of trust," he said.

"When we're talking about such an important position, I thought it would be irresponsible of me to continue to serve when there was such a feeling." While the attorney-general's first loyalty must be to the public, he explained, it is also important that he enjoy the trust of the cabinet.

Finally, Ben-Yair said he had recommended setting up a public commission to look into the entire issue of the attorney-general's status. However, he said, he personally opposed proposals to detach the role of head of the prosecution from the attorney-general's job, saying this would weaken the position.



Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F	C	F	
Amsterdam	-28	-18	-23	-7	cloudy
Berlin	-25	-13	-18	-1	cloudy
Buenos Aires	19	66	20	68	rain
Calcutta	28	82	29	84	rain
Chicago	-13	9	-4	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	15	59	16	61	rain
London	10	50	11	52	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	64	19	66	clear
Madrid	10	50	11	52	cloudy
Moscow	-10	14	-10	14	snow
New York	-17	1	-17	1	cloudy
Paris	-4	25	-5	23	cloudy
Stockholm	-18	-1	-18	-1	cloudy
Sydney	14	57	15	59	cloudy
Tel Aviv	15	59	16	61	cloudy
Toronto	-10	14	-10	14	cloudy
Zurich	-22	-8	-22	-8	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, the jack of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

El Al employee returns envelope with \$30,000 to bride-to-be

PLANNING a wedding can mean keeping track of an overwhelming number of details, and a woman flying recently from New York to Tel Aviv for her wedding lost track of \$30,000 of them.

The bride-to-be left an envelope containing \$30,000 in cash on the airplane. Thanks to the honesty of El Al employee Etti Asraf, however, she still has the money to pay for her wedding.

Asraf found the large envelope while cleaning out the airplane's cabin to prepare for the next flight. She took it to her supervisor, and the two of them were shocked to find it contained \$30,000 in bundles of \$5,000.

Just as they were reporting their discovery to El Al's office at Ben-Gurion Airport, the distraught woman came in to ask for help.

Asraf returned the envelope to her, and she pulled several hundred dollars out to reward her.

But Asraf refused the award, saying it was all in a day's work. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

War on ideological crime marked Ben-Yair's tenure

EVERLYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair considered the war on ideological crime and his efforts to inculcate democratic culture in Israel to be major elements of his tenure. Lack of success in either endeavor could have dangerous consequences, he said.

"[Democratic culture] means tolerance. It means a government that puts limits on itself. It means not infringing on minority rights. It means maintaining the independence of the judiciary, and it means maintaining the independence of the prosecution and the investigative authorities," he said. "I have the feeling that [these values] have not been sufficiently instilled in some sectors of the public."

Ideological crime is only the most glaring expression of this problem. The idea that a "political or ideological goal justifies bending and even breaking democratic rules" is very dangerous, he said, and this belief is not confined to a few individuals.

"Even if these trends [are found] in groups on the fringes, they do not just belong to a few individuals," he stated.

The battle against ideological crime has taken a number of forms, from the decision to outlaw Kach and Kahane Chai, to the indictment of Zvi Artzi for sedition, and to indictments for incitement, but it cannot be waged solely by the legal system, he said. Everyone — politicians, educators and religious leaders — must work to inculcate democratic values.

Administrative detentions are also part of the war on ideological crime, he added.

"[We use these measures] when there is no evidence, or not enough evidence, for criminal proceedings, but there is a fear of future [violent] action, and it must be prevented," he said.

While a democratic state "does not welcome administrative measures — not against Jews and not against non-Jews" — they are sometimes necessary to prevent a serious crime, he said.

Harel tries to head off bid to raise MKs' wages

LIAT COLLINS

MK Yehuda Harel (Third Way) filed an urgent request to Knesset House Committee Chairman Rafael Pinhasi (Shas) yesterday asking him to revise the committee's decision to raise MKs' wages.

In his letter Harel wrote: "It is unacceptable that MKs ignore the severe cuts in the national budget which they endorsed last week, and will thrust on the Treasury a heavy burden in the form of a wage rise for themselves."

Harel also claimed that the subject had not appeared on the committee's agenda on Monday and he had not been present when it was unexpectedly raised. He asked Pinhasi to convene a meeting as soon as possible to reconsider the matter.

MKs granted themselves the 6.9 percent wage hike Monday in keeping with the recommendations of the Rozen-Zvi Report.

The previous Knesset decided to

forgo the increase but after ministers' ministry directors-general and mayors all received the increase, the parliamentarians were no longer prepared for self-sacrifice. The 6.9% is on top of the 33% increase they received in October 1996 in exchange for giving up the right to moonlight.

David Harris adds: Finance Minister Dan Meridor is calling on the Knesset Finance Committee not to approve salary increases and improved pension arrangements to MKs and ministers.

Meridor wants MKs to set a personal example in a year in which Meridor wants to restrict pay increases in general to a minimum. In order to present his case, Meridor has asked committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) to allow him to appear before the committee at its earliest convenience.

Matza plans to increase National Health Council's role

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday expressed his "disappointment" in the National Health Council, which was meeting for the fifth time in two years and has "not fulfilled its function of advising the minister."

For Matza, who replaced Tzahi Hanegbi as minister recently and is the fifth health minister in four years, it was his first appearance before the council — a public body of 31 representatives man-

dated by the two-year-old National Health Insurance Law. The members include representatives of the health funds, unions, voluntary organizations, Israeli Medical Association, pharmacists and others involved in the health system.

The law states that the council must convene at least four times a year, thus yesterday's three-hour session at a ministry building in Jerusalem should have been the ninth session.

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Tel. (972-2) 5395661/429, between 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon, Sunday to Thursday.

The tender documents will be supplied on submitting a receipt of payment for NIS1,000 (non-refundable).

*In Israel payments should be made into Bezeq's Postal Bank, account No. 5-311757.

*Overseas suppliers should make payment into Bezeq's account no. 12-901-97633/64, at the Jerusalem main branch of Bank Leumi Le-Israeli BM.

The receipt, with company details and authorized trader's number be faxed to 972-2-5378113. Please phone afterwards, to obtain confirmation or receipt of the fax.

A meeting and site visit will take place at 9.00 hrs on February 24, 1997 at Bezeq's Head Office, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem. Attendance is a pre-requisite for companies wishing to participate in the tendering process. Companies that do not attend the visit shall not be able to participate in the process.

Pre-qualification documents should be placed in the tender's box not later than 6.00 p.m. on March 11, 1997.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order the entire work from one source.

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68/97/052/0	Light commercial vehicle, up to 1800 kg., 1800-1900 cc diesel	As detailed in tender docs.	4.3.97	NIS1000	02-5395615/4

The following general conditions apply:

- Pre-conditions:
 - Parties submitting bids must comply with all laws, including the requirement to keep account books, be an authorized trader, hold valid licenses to trade, and comply with all relevant standard specifications.
 - Willingness to provide a guarantee, as explained in the tender documents.
 - Prices for Tender 09/97/040/0 may be given in shekels or dollars.
 - The tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Ordering Department of the Purchasing Division, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday.
- The tender documents will be provided on submitting a receipt of payment of the above sum.
- * In Israel, payment should be made into Bezeq's Postal Bank account no. 5-311757.
- * Overseas suppliers should make payment into Bezeq's account no. 12-901-97633/64, at the Jerusalem main branch of Bank Leumi Le-Israel.
- The cost of the tender documents is not returnable.
- The receipt, with details of your company, and authorized trader's number may be faxed to 972-2-5378113. You may phone afterwards (972-2-5395615,4), to obtain confirmation of receipt of the fax.
- Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem.
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 - Bids sent by fax or telegram will not be considered.